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THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow

Holiday books
Light reading for a lazy summer's day

Wine country
Tasting tour of the vineyards of Burgundy

Regatta week
Out and about in Henley-on-Thames

Sporting weekend
International athletics, Lord's, Wimbledon, and the Tour de France

Portfolio

Tomorrow, £22,000 can be won in The Times Portfolio competition - the weekly prize of £20,000, and the daily £2,000. Yesterday's prize of £2,000 was won by Mrs Alice Harris of Rainip, Middlesex. Portfolio list, page 20, how to play, Information Service, back page.

Helicopter missing in Falklands

A Royal Navy Sea King helicopter with four people on board was involved in a mid-air collision with an RAF Hercules 75 miles north of the Falkland Islands yesterday, the Ministry of Defence said.

The Hercules returned safely to Mount Pleasant airfield and a full search and rescue operation was mounted for the helicopter, a spokesman said.

TUC shares row

The TUC has shares in several companies that are leading financial backers of the Conservative Party, including United Biscuits, regarded as very opposed to trade unions.

Poll balance

Next Thursday's Brecon and Radnor by-election is wide open, according to a National Opinion Poll published in the Daily Mail today. It gives the Conservatives 34.5 per cent, Labour 32 per cent, and the Alliance 30 per cent.

Tin defence

London Metal Exchange officials defended their decision to intervene in the tin market after an attempt to squeeze traders on prices.

Youth charter

The Labour Party launched its Charter for Youth, which commits a future government to substantially increase grants and allowances for young people on training courses or in full-time higher education.

Bush warning

The US Vice-President Mr George Bush warned M Jacques Delors President of the European Commission, of American anger over trade relations.

Speedy Cram

Steve Cram ran the third fastest ever 1,500 metres in Oslo last night winning in 3 min 31.4 sec, just outside Steve Ovett's world record of 3 min 30.77 sec.

SPECIAL REPORT

Personal computers: Rapid developments make this an area of changing needs and uses.

Leader page 13

Letters: On hijacking, from Mr P. Martin, and others; universities, from Prof R. Morris, and Mr C. U. M. Smith

Leading articles: Borrowing

Mr Honeyford's school; Embassies and hostages

Features: pages 10-12

Twenty-four men against the hijackers; rancid Bacon, by Bernard Levin; David Watt on Portugal's EEC readmission; Spectrum Las Vegas revamped; return of the Mahdi; Friday Page: toddlers learning the ropes

Obituaries: page 14

Mr Elias Sarkis, Mr Martin Parr

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Syria offers help in Beirut crisis but price may be high

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Despite pessimism from Israel and confusion in Beirut, Syria yesterday publicly pledged that it would help to end the ordeal of the 39 American hostages still held in Beirut, after a series of contacts between President Reagan and President Assad.

The promise, first revealed in the Damascus government newspaper *Al-Baath*, even raised hopes that the seven Americans abducted in Lebanon in the past 18 months might be included in a package deal if Israel releases more than 700 Lebanese it is still holding.

The price for Syria's assistance, however, may be high: not only the release of the prisoners in Israel-but possibly some form of understanding with the White House that Israel would stage no more military assaults into Lebanon.

A front-page leading article in *Al-Baath* yesterday morning - almost certainly written by a senior member of President Assad's staff - warned the Americans against "any hasty action that might create new conflicts in the Middle East" and spoke harshly of "Israel's terrorism" in Lebanon.

Syria, said the paper, was "actively helping in putting an end to the story of the hijacked TWA plane... but at the same time cannot ignore the American moves and military threats and provocative statements".

The newspaper went on to lecture the Americans in uncompromising terms. "We in Syria are against all acts of kidnappings because their results are negative: particular to the kidnappers and the nationalistic movement (SIC) in our area.

"But we wonder what is the US attitude to Israel's kidnapping of hundreds of Lebanese citizens, since we heard nothing from the Americans about that... We also wonder why the US has such a loud voice when a plane is kidnapped (SIC) and says nothing when Israel adopts terrorism as a state policy and perpetrates acts against thousands of Arabs."

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In Beirut itself yesterday, the proposal by Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal militia leader, that the Americans should be moved to the custody of the French Embassy was being investigated by the Embassy's First Secretary, M Marcel L'Angel. At Amal headquarters in the west of the city, he tried to find out what conditions Mr Berri wished to attach to such a transfer.

For its part, Switzerland offered its own embassy in Beirut for the protection of the hostages but refused to accept Mr Berri's stipulation that they could not leave Lebanon until Israel released its own prisoners - which probably rules out the Swiss.

Reports from Israel that the "French option" was already dead and a typically ambitious, but apparently baseless, comment from Mr Berri that the hostage crisis might be resolved within 72 hours only served to increase the confusion in Beirut. "I am a bottle - half full, half empty," M L'Angel said yesterday. "I am half optimistic, half

pessimistic". If his symbolism was hugely inappropriate - he was, after all, standing in the very centre of militant Shia Islam in Lebanon - it did accurately reflect the shifting diplomatic hopes in America, Israel, France, Switzerland and Syria.

Once President Assad has established - rhetorically or otherwise - the reasons for his involvement, it seems certain that he will insist on a speedy resolution to a crisis which is growing increasingly wearisome to all those involved.

Even a practised diplomat like M L'Angel showed signs he was calling only to ask for "specific details" about the proposed transfer. Asked by *The Times* whether the French Embassy in Rue Clemenceau could accommodate the 39 Americans, the perspiring diplomat replied: "You ask stupid questions".

More intriguing yesterday, however, continued rumours that the Americans were prepared to ask Israel to release all its Lebanese prisoners if the Americans kidnapped in Lebanon in the past 18 months were included in an exchange deal.

When I asked Mr Berri on Wednesday if there was any news of Mr Terry Anderson, the Associated Press bureau chief who was abducted in March, he responded: "I will try in the future to arrange something." Two Frenchmen kidnapped on May 22 by the Islamic Jihad movement were handed over to Mr Berri's protection yesterday - in itself a very hopeful sign.

M L'Angel said M Jean-Paul Kaufmann and M Michel



Mr Peter Krajj and his wife Sally yesterday.

Birth ordeal award to mother

Mrs Sally Krajj, who went through an "excruciatingly painful" ordeal during the birth of her second twin son, was awarded £31,067 damages by a High Court Judge in London yesterday.

Her husband Peter, a banker, was awarded £5,168 damages on behalf of the estate of Daniel, who died eight weeks for the brain damage he suffered and his loss of expectation of life.

Mrs Krajj, aged 35, a teacher, of St James Avenue, Hampton Hill, Middlesex, broke down in tears and was comforted by her husband as Mr Justice Woolf awarded the damages against Mr James McGrath, an obstetrician, and St Theresa's hospital, Wimbledon, South-west London.

Afterwards she said: "We never went into this for the money. We have been asking for five years for an apology and an explanation."

Mrs Krajj said that Mr McGrath, who attended the birth of her twins in March, 1980, had consistently refused to say he was sorry what had happened. If he had done so, they would have settled the case.

Mrs Krajj said her ordeal at the private hospital, in which she suffered an "eternity" of pain as Mr McGrath tried to manipulate the unborn baby internally "was the worst thing that has ever happened to me".

Mrs Krajj had told the judge that she experienced dreadful pain when Mr McGrath "put his arm inside me" to alter the position of the baby which was lying across the womb.

Mr Justice Woolf said he accepted the evidence of an expert witness, professor Peter Huntingford, that this was "horrific treatment, completely unacceptable, breaking all the rules to safeguard mother and baby".

Mrs Krajj explained to Mr McGrath that she did not want to have an epidural anaesthetic if it was a normal labour. The first twin, Tom, now a healthy and happy five-year-old, was born normally.

But Daniel, delivered by caesarean section, was born dead and had to be resuscitated. He suffered brain damage.

Mr McGrath, of Harley Street, London, and the hospital had not put in a defence, but contested how much should be awarded.

Bomb quiz moves to London

By Stewart Tendler Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard is to bring a number of the eight people held in Glasgow to London today or early tomorrow to face questioning or possible charges on the Brighton bombing and other offences.

The group includes the man wanted for questioning in the investigation of the Brighton Grand Hotel bombing. Others will probably be drawn from among another four suspects held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act last weekend.

The arrested group must be charged or released by tomorrow under the Act and yesterday arrangements were being made in London and Glasgow for the transfer south in secure circumstances.

During the day Commander Simon Crawshaw, head of the Yard's anti-terrorist squad, arrived in Glasgow with Det Chief Supt Jack Reece, head of Sussex CID, as details of the transfer were discussed.

The transfer is taking place after talks between legal officers in London and the Scottish legal system.

A total of 16 people are being held by police in Glasgow, London, Lancashire and Greater Manchester as investigations continue into past IRA attacks and into plans for an assault on 12 seaside towns next month.

Yesterday Scotland Yard maintained the view that the only bomb planted is the one discovered at the Rubens Hotel in London last weekend. However, it is believed there may be a "slight possibility" of one or two other bombs planted and primed with long-term timers due to start exploding from mid-July.

Yesterday the Palm Court Hotel, Torquay, reopened after police and Army bomb disposal experts had investigated a possible device in a room used by a suspicious couple on June 8. Nothing was found but material from the room is being sent to the forensic science laboratory at Chesham.

Sakharov claim

Bonn (Reuters) - The West German *Bildzeitung* said it had obtained two recent films of the Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov in internal exile showing him in poor health and being treated in a clinic.

Auditors' notice to rate rebels

By David Walker Social Policy Correspondent

Official auditors yesterday served Labour councillors in Lambeth, south London, and Liverpool with bills ranging from £2,100 to £4,000 each.

It is the first step in a legal process that will lead to the disqualification and possibly the bankruptcy of scores of Labour's hard-line local representatives.

The district auditor for London gave notice that the £126,947 he wants from Lambeth is only his first demand. The final surcharge for 31 current and one former Labour councillor in the borough could reach many hundreds of thousands.

The auditor based in Chester gave notice that 49 of Liverpool's Labour councillors owe £106,103, his initial estimate of the city's loss because they took so long to fix a rate.

Both auditors have invited councillors to respond before, on July 19, they issue certificates requiring the surcharge to be paid.

It looks likely that both sets of councillors will contest the auditors' action in the High Court. Councillors will stay in office till legal proceedings are exhausted, which may not be until the end of the year.

Using similar phrases Mr Ted Knight, Labour leader in Lambeth, and Mr Derek Hatton, the de facto leader in Liverpool, last night accused the auditors of acting as judge, jury and executioner in their own cause.

"We stand united", Mr Knight said. "We are classed as criminals but it is the Government that has stolen £113 million from Lambeth in rate support grant."

Industrial action of various kinds seems likely in both places, as municipal staff are encouraged to support their employers.

Mr Brian Skinner, the London auditor, has based his assessment of losses in Lambeth on the fact that since April 1 the council has failed to make a legal rate and so has deliberately forgone rate rebates payments from the Government and Treasury rates payments on Crown-owned properties. Together these total £126,947.

The Liverpool figure is calculated on the basis of interest that would have been received had rates been coming in during the weeks before the decision to set a rate earlier this month.

UK trade healthiest for 15 months

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Britain's trade figures last month were the best for well over a year. The current account surplus was £724 million, the biggest since February last year and compared with £223 million in April.

The pound held steady on the news. The sterling index was unchanged at 80.6, while the pound was a quarter of a cent down at \$1.2922 against the dollar.

Trade in goods improved sharply. The visible trade surplus was £224 million, compared with a £277 million deficit in April and a record £999 million deficit in March. The visible trade figures were also the best since February 1984.

The main feature of the figures was an across-the-board fall in imports. They totalled £6,558 million last month, £611 million down on April and £1,269 million lower than the record £7,827 million in March. The May import total was the lowest for 10 months.

There were two main reasons for the import fall. Oil imports fell by £171 million to £573 million, producing a healthy £835 million surplus in oil trade for Britain. The Department of Energy announced yesterday that energy consumption in the cold February-April period was 4.1 per cent up on a year earlier. The milder March weather will have cut consumption and imports.

Imports of other industrial machinery and other products bought by companies also fell with the ending of the 1984-85 fiscal year and disappearance of the incentive to invest under the old capital allowances.

Department of Trade officials regard the figures as very good and in line with the Treasury's forecast.

Exports fell by £115 million to £6,782 million, largely due to a small fall in exports of oil and so-called erratic items. The underlying export position is still regarded as strong, with a 2 per cent rise in the latest three months.

Real incomes fell back sharply in the first quarter, according to official figures published yesterday. There was a 2.1 per cent fall from the high level of the fourth quarter, although incomes were still 1.4 per cent higher than a year earlier. Company profits held up at their high fourth quarter level.

Gower returns to form

England scored 273 for eight wickets on the first day of the second Cornhill Test match against Australia at Lord's yesterday. David Gower, their captain, returned to form by hitting 86, his best score for 14 tests.

At Wimbledon, Tom Gullickson, of the United States, beat the twelfth seed, Miroslav Mecir, of Czechoslovakia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3, and Boris Becker, the brilliant young German, beat Hank Pfister, an American, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Another British girl lost - Another Croft by 6-3, 7-5 to Hu Na. Rex Bellamy, page 26 John Woodcock, page 27

Europe acts to end violence

Binding new sports code

More than 20 European countries, moving at unprecedented speed, agreed yesterday to combine to put maximum pressure on their countries' football authorities to root out spectator violence.

Sports ministers and senior officials meeting under the auspices of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg resolved to put the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), the governing body of European football, under the sort of moral and political constraints already applied by the British League and Football Association.

They also agreed the terms of a new Council of Europe Convention, which will be binding on governments which accede to it, designed to eliminate spectator violence and misbehaviour at all sporting events.

It is expected to be formally adopted in the next three or four weeks, and participants at

proposal made as recently as June 11, surprised many. "Usually it takes several years to reach agreement in the General Council of Europe", one participant said yesterday. "In this case we did it within 15 days, because of the political will shown."

The motive force behind yesterday's agreement was the fatal riot at the Heysel Stadium in Brussels on May 29, when 38 people were killed and 200 hurt at the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus of Turin.

A reference to the Brussels tragedy was excluded from one resolution adopted yesterday, in deference to objections from the British side. "It was felt that the British had been sufficiently humbled already," one official said.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the British Minister for Sport, who for two or three years has played a leading part in

proposal made as recently as June 11, surprised many. "Usually it takes several years to reach agreement in the General Council of Europe", one participant said yesterday. "In this case we did it within 15 days, because of the political will shown."

The main challenge would appear to be Mr Norman Hogg, the deputy chief whip, who has already received pledges of support from some members of the left-wing Campaign Group, and from the right-wing Solidarity Campaign.

But the dark horse in any contest is expected to be Mr Terry Davis, a member of Mr Roy Hattersley's shadow Treasury team.

West moves to counter air terror

Britain, the US and Canada called yesterday for tighter airline security to defeat the "internal barbarism" of international terrorism (Trevor Fishlock writes).

The special meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization, a UN agency agreed to examine ways of preventing would-be hijackers and their weapons from boarding airliners and of stopping saboteurs planting bombs in luggage and cargo.

There was no radical or especially new action proposed - essentially speakers wanted existing procedures adhered to.

Mr Michael Spicer Under Secretary of State for Transport said Britain was horrified by the breaking of agreements on not giving refuge to hijackers. Delta fury, jet crash search, page 5

Fens yield a Bronze Age bonanza

A team of six archaeologists led by Mr Francis Pryor, who has been working in the Peterborough area for 15 years, has now uncovered rows of timber uprights, outlining a rectangular building about 21ft wide with internal partitions. It is considered the best preserved Bronze Age wooden building found in Britain, dating back to about 660 BC, a period about which so little is known that it is often referred to as "the black hole" of British archaeology.

Work at Flag Fen began in 1983, and has been funded so far by English Heritage. The team estimate that there are as many as four million pieces of prehistoric timber at the site, much of the wood re-used from earlier buildings. Ideally, they say, it would take another 10 to 15 years to explore the site fully.

However, the present level of funding is not sufficient to allow them to cover the site, so that they can dig more efficiently, let alone purchase such expensive aids as computer graphics, which would enable them to interpret their discoveries more speedily.

The building, so far uncovered is an aisled house similar in type to those previously found in The Netherlands. Inside the building numerous split-oak planks have been found, some re-used



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Tight controls on alcohol at football grounds in Bill to beat hooliganism

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Penalties of up to three months imprisonment and a £400 fine for breaking laws to prevent drunken hooliganism at football matches are proposed in a Bill published yesterday.

The restrictions will apply to "designated" sports grounds and events. The sale of alcohol inside grounds will be tightly controlled but clubs will be able to apply to local magistrates for an exemption order allowing them to sell alcohol in bars out of sight of the pitch.

The Bill leaves the way open to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to cover other sports besides football. But the Home Office said yesterday: "It is expected that the Secretary of State's initial designation order will relate only to football grounds and matches, including in particular, Football League clubs and international fixtures."

Precisely which grounds would be covered has yet to be decided. But the order need not cover every one. Places where there has been trouble in the past are obvious candidates.

The Bill's provisions are sweeping but flexible. It will, for example, be an offence with a penalty of up to £400 or three months imprisonment, or both, if someone has intoxicating liquor or a "controlled container" in his possession. That could include a hip flask or a thermos flask, even if it contains coffee.

A controlled container is any bottle, can, or other portable

container designed to carry liquid, but medicine is excluded. Obviously police will be expected to exercise their discretion. The measure applies to places from which the match may be directly viewed or when a person enters a designated ground. The container must be capable of causing injury to a person struck by it.

A fine of up to £1,000 is available against someone who allows alcohol to be carried on a vehicle.

The Bill specifically prohibits drunkenness and the possession of alcohol on trains, coaches and mini-buses on the way to and from a match or when entering the ground. Drunkenness in the ground or at the entrance to it will be illegal.

The provisions also apply to travel within England and Wales to sports grounds and events designated by the Secretary of State for Scotland. Matches played abroad may be designated, so that drinking on special trains and coaches can be controlled.

But once the coach is driven aboard a ferry, football supporters will be able to have duty free drinks.

Under the Bill, a police officer will be able to stop and search a coach of football supporters if he has reasonable grounds for suspecting there is alcohol on board and it is going to a designated match. The powers are considered to be no wider than those under the new Police and Criminal Evidence

Act, which comes into force on January 1.

In considering applications for exemption orders allowing the sale of alcohol at a ground, magistrates will have to take into account public order and safety in the light of the club's past record.

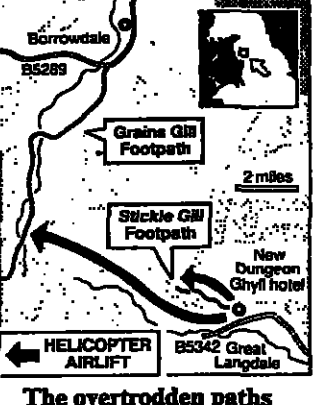
Exemption orders will be valid for five months only. That means clubs will have to renew them for the second part of the season. But a police officer will be empowered to close any bar on the ground if trouble breaks out.

Mr Brittan said "the Bill is based on the current Scottish legislation but reflects the difference between football grounds in Scotland and those in England and Wales. He was referring to the fact that the Scots banned alcohol completely from their grounds, where there are no licensed or registered premises."

The Police Federation yesterday welcomed the measures but said they did not go far enough.

The federation is concerned that exemptions could be granted to allow alcohol to be served in bars out of sight of the pitch. "This does look like one rule for the average supporter and another for the boardroom and executive boxes."

Mr Geoffrey Norman, secretary of the Magistrates' Association, said that JPs would use the stiffer penalties, but they still depended on the police to prosecute the real trouble-makers.



The overtrodden paths

Chinooks rescue Lake District paths

By Peter Davenport

Of all the tasks likely to fall to the RAF's helicopter crews, that of airborne landscape gardeners must be among the most unusual.

But for the pilots and loadmasters of two Chinooks of number seven squadron based at RAF Odiham in Hampshire that has been their latest mission.

While their colleagues have been sweeping the seas off the southern coast of Ireland for bodies and wreckage from the Air-India jet, they have been engaged on the more down-to-earth task of assisting the National Trust in its programme to repair some of the most trodden footpaths in the Lake District.

The helicopters were called in to lift 200 tons of top soil and 300 tons of stone almost 2,000ft up the fells of Great Langdale and Borrowdale where the materials are to be used to repair and strengthen the Stickle Gill and Grains Gill footpaths.

Without the assistance of the RAF, the National Trust which is carrying out the work as part of its lake district landscape appeal, estimates it would have taken more than a year.

Four skips, capable of carrying up to 10 tons of soil and stone at a time, were adapted to be lifted by the helicopters.



A Chinook at work.

Trinity Hall tops degree table for Cambridge

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Trinity Hall, Cambridge, is top of the league table for this year's Cambridge University degree results, the second year running and the third time in five years.

Second is Gonville and Caius, up from fifth position, and third is Sidney Sussex, which has risen from thirteenth position.

Bottom of the league, in twentyfourth place is Magdalene, for the second year running.

The table, compiled by Mr Peter Tompkins, a Cambridge graduate, is drawn up by awarding five points for a first class degree, three points for an upper second, two points for a lower second and one point for a third.

Mr Tompkins corrects the figures to account for the fact that students do consistently better in some subjects, such as mathematics and science.

The league is similar to the Norrington table compiled for Oxford University.

The college dropping the most places this year is Churchill, from second to fifteenth. Mr Tompkins said this was not surprising in view of Churchill's results in Part I of the Tripos two years ago which were not as good as expected.

Another college which has done well is Emmanuel, up from seventeenth to fifth. It is thought that may be because of the college's policy in recent years of taking increasing numbers of students on A-level results alone. Emmanuel jumped the gun on other colleges last year and announced that it was abandoning the university entrance examination.

The colleges in the bottom three positions are all single sex: Magdalene is the only all-male institution at the university and Newnham and New Hall are all-female.

Mr Tompkins, who works for a firm of actuaries and has been compiling his table for the past five years, says that any scoring system for a league table is arbitrary, but reckons that his is adequate.

Cambridge University Part II (Finals) scores in brackets denote last year's placings

Trinity Hall	516.6 (1)
Gonville & Caius	315.8 (5)
Sidney Sussex	306.7 (13)
Caius	297.8 (8)
Emmanuel	304.6 (17)
Christ's	294.4 (16)
Queens'	288.6 (6)
Trinity	288.3 (11)
St Catherine's	282.2 (18)
King's	282.1 (4)
Corpus Christi	279.2 (15)
St John's	278.4 (14)
Downing	277.1 (7)
Clare	273.2 (3)
Peterhouse	270.7 (9)
Selwyn	270.4 (21)
Robinson	269.0 (19)
Jesus	268.9 (10)
Fitzwilliam	258.9 (22)
Clifton	258.7 (23)
Newnham	255.2 (10)
St John's	245.0 (20)
Magdalene	243.0 (24)

Europe acts to end violence

Continued from page 1

promoting agreement within the Council, put high value on the proposals to be made to UEFA, whose secretary-general, Mr Hans Bangert, took part in the talks.

Mr Macfarlane said the UEFA was now to be "locked" in with governments for the first time.

"The most important thing is to get the governing body of European football to implement the rules, very good rules, which we have had for a long time."

He said of UEFA: "They are very anxious to work with us."

The meeting agreed that UEFA, whose officials have been widely criticized for laxity in supervising international matches, should be asked to enforce "binding requirements" for the use of grounds and the conduct of all matches held under their auspices.

Rules would govern the design and condition of stadiums, segregation of spectators, control of ticket sales,

the carrying of dangerous objects, the sale of alcohol and any drink in bottles or cans.

The convention lays down what governments must do on their own account, in parallel with the football authorities and by pressure on local authorities, stadium owners and other public bodies.

Many of the practices now codified, such as proper policing and crowd control, are in line with normal practice in Britain and some other countries where crowd problems are endemic.

'Loyalists' to defy ban on parade

From Tim Jones, Belfast

Hundreds of police equipped with riot equipment were last night positioned at Castlewellan, Co Down, after organizers of a "loyalist" parade said they would defy a ban imposed by Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Hurd made the order after being advised by police that the planned march, led by bands playing Orange hymns and battle tunes, would be extremely provocative as the proposed route went through an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic area.

The organizers were offered an alternative route but rejected it after one of the leaders, Mrs Ethel Smyth, a Democratic Unionist Party councillor, said the ban was unjust.

Labour plans wage for pupils

By Alan Hamilton

The Labour Party yesterday launched a raft of promises to tackle youth unemployment, aided by a body-popping dance group, several nearly famous pop singers, and the middle-aged Mr Clive Jenkins.

Mr John Prescott, shadow Secretary of State for Employment, launched his party's "Charter for Youth", which commits a future Labour Government to substantially increased grants and allowances for young people on training courses or in full-time higher education.

Labour says that will give 16 and 17-year-olds the right to work experience, the right of unemployed 18 to 24-year-olds to more jobs and better training opportunities, and the right to housing for young people.

Mr Prescott detailed his plans from the floodlit stage of Ronnie Scott's Club, a popular Soho venue for jazz enthusiasts. "Today's young people are becoming tomorrow's lost

generation," he said. "They grow more resentful of a society that denies them their right to adequate employment, training, educational opportunities, with the growing inequalities for black youth. They are right to be angry with a government which says there is no alternative."

Mr Prescott said that young people "recognize a government more concerned to fiddle the unemployment figures down than by driving them into cheap schemes and cheap employment in wage-council industries freed of minimum wage controls."

Young people, he claimed, were "resisting the Government's pressures to force them into cheap Youth Training and Community and Work Experience schemes with low pay, low skill, with little opportunity of permanent work, providing a gangplank to the dole and Yesser-land pleading for a job."

TUC funds with Tory supporters

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The TUC holds shares in several large companies that are leading financial backers of the Conservative Party, including one, United Biscuits, which is regarded by the labour movement as one of the most virulent anti-union companies.

Sir Hector Laming, chairman of United Biscuits, is a close associate of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and has acted as an unofficial adviser to the Prime Minister.

Many household names are on the TUC's confidential schedule of investments including British Oils, of which Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, was once a director.

The total Congress House financial investments amount to £75,162 of which £345,761 are in Treasury stock.

But it is the investments in well-known supporters of the Conservative Party that are likely to cause questions to be asked by union leaders, although in the past the investments have been passed un-noticed. One union official said last night that the TUC could be embarrassed by disclosure of its investments, particularly as the union movement is in the middle of a campaign of ballots to retain political funds, which are used to finance the Labour Party.

Sir Hector, who is also a friend of the Prime Minister, became the *hère nore* of the unions when he was one of the courtiers to halt secondary action being mounted by a shop steward of the transport union.

The company has also been at the centre of disputes with its unions over a big job reduction programme, including the last of 2,000 jobs in Liverpool two years ago when Sir Hector rejected a survival plan put forward by union leaders.

Brecon Tory candidate is stumped on Army camp

From George Hill Brecon

The Government's announcement of a reprieve for an Army training camp in the Brecon and Radnor constituency caused the Conservative candidate, Mr Christopher Butler, as much embarrassment, as relief yesterday.

Under questioning from reporters, he admitted that he had no idea what level of activity would continue at the Cwrt-y-gollen camp after its conversion into a Territorial Army camp. The move was announced by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, in a visit to the constituency on Wednesday.

Mr Butler did not know how many of the 69 civilian jobs connected with the camp would be saved.

Announcing the Government's decision on Wednesday Mr Heseltine said: "The future of the base will now be assured." But Mr Butler could only say yesterday: "I hope substantial alternative uses will provide the maximum of employment." Asked whether the Territorial Army role would be permanent or temporary, he replied: "What is permanent in our fast-changing world today? It isn't what I wanted in full, but I'm glad we proved effective in getting the specific future use identified."

His principal opponents welcomed the news that the camp would not close altogether, but dwelt ironically on the circumstance of the announcement. "Mr Heseltine's squalid and pathetic somersault is the Government's reaction to what they see to be imminent loss of this contest," Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour home affairs spokesman, said in Hay-on-Wye.

Foreign Office advised to cut residences abroad

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A significant cut in the Foreign Office's extensive network of overseas residences, involving many British diplomats having to find their own accommodation, was suggested yesterday by the Public Accounts Committee, the Commons' public spending watchdog.

The idea is contained in a report which shows up the Foreign Office as ineffective when it comes to making economies in their embassies.

In spite of drawing up 100 rationalization plans aimed at savings and improvements only six have resulted in visits to the places concerned.

At least 18 heads of mission residences are more than 25 per cent too big, yet only one has been replaced by a smaller property. The MPs merely "note" a Foreign Office assurance that their appeal for flexibility over accommodation space standards is not an excuse for an unnecessary lavish lifestyle overseas.

The Foreign Office has 4,067 properties in 132 countries and the MPs, while acknowledging the "apparent commitment" to wider rationalization and improvement, says: "We are disappointed that so much still consists of paper proposals. We are concerned that more progress has not been made in implementing these plans... hard results in this area are overdue."

Because many of the difficulties in achieving progress appear to flow from the sheer size of the overseas diplomatic estate, according to the MPs, they suggest the Foreign Office should consider "fundamental changes" in relation to accommodation needs to help to reduce the size of the estate.

Fifteenth report from the Committee of Public Accounts, Management of the Foreign Estate (Stationery Office, £3.90).

Police inquiry ordered after meetings

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A police investigation has been launched in Liverpool to see whether meetings between a police authority sub-committee and black people involved conspiracy to incite racial hatred and public disorder.

It was ordered by the Merseyside chief constable, Mr Kenneth Oxford, after he was told of the meetings in Toxteth the scene of riots in 1981.

The informal meetings between the police authority's community liaison sub-committee and members of the Liverpool 8 committee took place on June 19 and 20.

A report by the county solicitor, Mr Ken Wilson, made available by Merseyside County Council yesterday, said the meetings, at the Liverpool 8 law centre, were attended by about 34 people, most of them black. Another 12 to 15 people were talked to at a "front line" discussion in Gramby Street, Toxteth.

Legal action fears may end wage-fix convention

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Fear of legal action by trade unions is leading the Government to a decision, expected to be announced shortly, to renounce an international convention requiring it to keep minimum wage-fixing machinery.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, is expected to conclude that the International Labour Organization Convention No 26 should be "deratified" irrespective of his final decision on the future of Britain's network of 26 wage councils covering 2.75 million workers in low-paid industries.

With the consultation period on the Government's Green Paper on wages councils over, Mr King and his Cabinet colleagues are considering whether they should be abolished or their powers and functions completely reformed.

But ministers now believe that whatever happens to the councils, the convention should be renounced because of the opportunity it would give unions and individuals to take the Government to court over decisions it makes on the councils.

When the Green Paper was published, the Government gave notice that it was considering deratifying the convention, but promised consultation. That has failed to dissuade ministers from their view that they require freedom of action in such an important field.

The decision has to be taken soon because opportunities for considering deratification from the convention only come every five years. If the Government failed to do so in this year it would have to wait till 1991 before considering it again.

Assurances from unions that they would not take the Government to court if the convention was kept have failed to satisfy ministers.

Jasmine Beckford inquiry

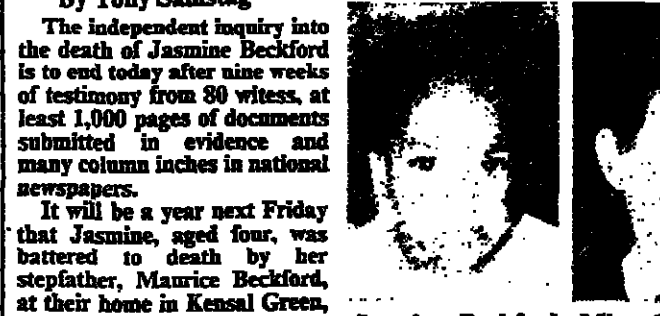
Jumbled chronicle of misplaced good intentions

By Tony Samstag

The independent inquiry into the death of Jasmine Beckford is to end today after nine weeks of testimony from 80 witnesses, at least 1,000 pages of documents submitted in evidence and many columns inches in national newspapers.

It will be a year next Friday that Jasmine, aged four, was battered to death by her stepfather, Maurice Beckford, at their home in Kensal Green, north London. Jasmine and her younger sister, Louise, were still under the care of Brent council at the time, although their names had been removed from the non-accidental injury register of children at risk in 1982, seven months after they had been taken from a foster family and returned to the Beckfords.

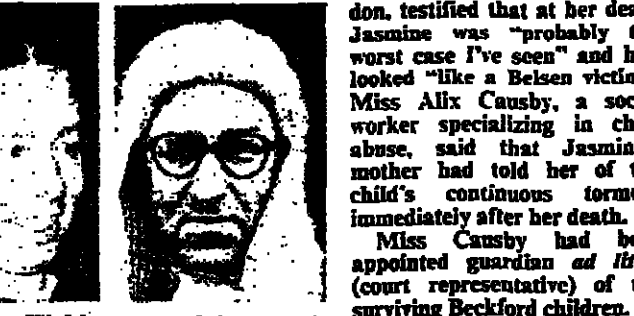
Beckford, aged 25, was sentenced at the Central Criminal Court last March to 10 years in prison for the manslaughter of Jasmine. Her mother, Beverly Lorrington, also 25, received 18 months for ill treatment and neglect.



Jasmine Beckford, Miss Gun Wahlstrom and Mr Louis Blom-Cooper.

Any judgements that are passed, will have to wait until the inquiry panel, led by Mrs Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, hears concluding statements and issues its report, much later this year.

But what did emerge from the weeks of testimony at Brent Town Hall was a jumbled chronicle of good intentions and wishful thinking by a cast desperately out of touch with each other. Social workers, foster parents, health visitors, child abuse experts, magis-



Jasmine Beckford, Miss Gun Wahlstrom and Mr Louis Blom-Cooper.

trates, nursery school teachers, doctors and police all saw the situation differently, individually and collectively.

But all the time there was one reality: what was happening at College Road where, expert evidence suggested, Jasmine had suffered appalling physical abuse at the hands of Beckford virtually from the day of her return to the family in April 1982.

Dr Iain West, head of the department of forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital, Lon-

don, testified that at her death Jasmine was "probably the worst case I've seen" and had looked "like a Belsen victim".

Miss Alix Cansby, a social worker specializing in child abuse, said that Jasmine's mother had told her of the child's continuous torment immediately after her death.

Miss Cansby had been appointed guardian *ad litem* (court representative) of the surviving Beckford children. By that time there were two other girls, Louise and her baby sister, Chantelle, who had been born in December 1983, about seven months before the killing. Few if any of the other social workers involved with the Beckford family appeared from testimony to have more than the scantiest knowledge of how to deal with child abuse cases.

The field-worker directly responsible for the Beckfords, Miss Gun Wahlstrom, had attended a short course on child abuse six months before the death. But, she told the inquiry, she had built up a relationship

of trust with the Beckfords, or so she thought, and had overlooked the fact that she had been able to see Jasmine only once in the last 10 months of her life because she believed the various excuses she was given.

The Area 6 office of Brent Social Services was woefully short-staffed during much of the period after Jasmine's return to the Beckfords, several witnesses said.

The inquiry was told of communications that went astray or passed unnoticed and incidents that might have been interpreted as danger signs, but were passed over under the crush of more apparently urgent cases.

The Beckford family had seemed to be a social-work success story. The original injuries that resulted in Jasmine being taken into care in the first place came to seem a "one-off explosion", as Miss Wahlstrom said. The family obviously loved the children and spared no effort to get them back.

Sale room

Historic jardiniere fetches £37,880

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A battered eighteenth century jardiniere, painted green and embellished with a vignette of mermaids, secured £37,880 (estimate £10,000-£15,000) at Christie's yesterday. It was historical association that made the price.

The previous owner used it for flower arrangements until Hugh Roberts of Christie's saw it. He confirmed that it was part of a set designed by Robert Adam for King George III's brother, the Duke of Cumberland, in the 1780s.

His furniture was sold at Christie's in 1993 and this piece, described as "an elegant cistern", sold for £2,175. Nothing has been heard of it since.

The matching sideboard and pair of urns are still lost.

In contrast, the Victoria and Albert Museum managed to secure a magnificent pair of Acco revival chairs, made circa 1830, for £12,960 (estimate £15,000-£20,000).

The carved giltwood frames exuberantly sprout with foliage and shells.

Documented furniture was most in demand at Christie's. A pair of pretty little giltwood sideboards with inlaid marble tops made in the mid-eighteenth century for the Lord Lansdale at Lowther Castle sold for £118,800 (estimate £30,000-£50,000).

Correction

We incorrectly stated on Saturday that the *Evening Argus* at Brighton had used a new technology developed by the National Graphical Association which "lets the union's floor talk on new products" not yet started.

Top 10 TUC Private Investments

Boots	54,034
Widgwood	35,290
Norfolk Capital Group	28,908
Rugby Portland Cement	26,433
Regal Properties	24,903
Heron Trust	23,577
Fosco Minsep	17,741
Untram	16,883
Imperial Group	16,229
Royal Insurance*	14,522

*Tory supporters. Other companies backing Conservative Party financially in which TUC invests: Marks and Spencer (£10,015) MEPC (£7,858) Racal Electronics (£8,306) Sun Life Assurance (£3,274) United Biscuits (£9,802).

PARLIAMENT JUNE 27 1985

Lawson's hopes

Benefits Green Paper

Campaign trail

Interest rates set to bring down inflation

THE ECONOMY

Inflation would continue to go down during the latter part of this year, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, reiterated during Commons questions...

The Government taking out mortgage interest payments. He is referring to the announcement to the House over a year ago by the Secretary of State for Employment...

3 per cent inflation is attainable target

PM's QUESTIONS

A rate of inflation of 3 per cent was an attainable target, Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, told Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party...

Will Field Marshal Heseltine return?

BY-ELECTION

The action of Mr Michael Heseltine in reversing a decision to close a barracks in the by-election constituency of Brecon and Radnor was likened during Prime Minister's questions to that of a nineteenth century admiral who had reneged on a promise to pay his sailors per week...

Prime Minister recall the resignation of Admiral Cockburne who served in Parliament at Honiton in 1805. The admiral reneged on his promise to pay his sailors a head to all who voted for him. Indeed, he never returned to Honiton again.

Tax cut commitment reaffirmed

Mr Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, reaffirmed during questions in the Commons his commitment to tax cuts made most recently in his speech to the Carlton Club in London on Wednesday.

extremely encouraging for manufacturing in general and for employment. The growth in employment of the last two years is expected to continue. Employment will be aided by the measures taken in the last Budget which do not have their effect until next year.

Scenes a 'symbol of fascist left'

RATES

Some of the scenes in places like Southwark, Brent and Hackney in London over the fixing of rates were described by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, as the face of socialism in power, the face of violence and intimidation.

High spending councils to lose £126m next year

SCOTLAND

Grant penalties on high spending Scottish local authorities will total £126 million for 1985-86, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons.

Jurisdiction of human rights court

HOUSE OF LORDS

The extent of the jurisdiction of the European Commission and the European Court of Human Rights was questioned by Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, during questions in the House of Lords, when he suggested that the whole area should be looked at again.

Lord Denning: The European Convention on Human Rights is not passed by Parliament or in statute. All its contents are in a treaty and I do not think the treaty-making powers of this country can give validity to the convention of our country. Lord Goff: We are signatories to the convention; we are also leaders in human rights.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be Monday: Debate on private Member's motion on housing. European Communities (Finance) Bill, committee.

Police investigations continue

MURRELL CASE

The security services were not involved in any way in the mysterious death of Miss Hilda Murrell, rose-grower and anti-nuclear campaigner in the Midlands, minister of State for Home Affairs, said in the Commons early on Thursday morning.

involvement in these tragic events by or instigated by the security services. Public confidence could only be fully restored when such authoritative evidence was made known and when all possible steps had been demonstrably been taken to find Miss Murrell's murderer.



Fraser: The rack and the thumbscrew

An emergency debate on the consequences of rate-capping in Lambeth, he said, 31 Labour councillors and one former Labour councillor had today received notice of immediate surcharge for £126,000 and were threatened with surcharging for a further massive sum, possibly up to £750,000.

Top priority for those on low incomes

CHILD BENEFIT

The Government wants to see child benefit at a reasonable level payable to all families, irrespective of supplementary benefit, a more effective system for working families with lower incomes, and a continuing reduction in their tax burdens, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in a Commons debate.

Drug dealers will face life imprisonment

ATTEMPT TO REDUCE

An attempt to reduce the maximum sentence for drug trafficking from life imprisonment to 35 years failed during the committee stage of the Controlled Drugs (Penalties) Bill in the House of Lords.

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The NUM after the strike: 2 Scargill faces twin challenge

In the second of three articles on next week's conference of the National Union of Mineworkers, David Felton, Labour Correspondent, discusses the threat posed by moderates to Mr Scargill's presidency.

The proposal rule in question is rule 11 which reads in part 'the president shall preside (but shall have no vote in any capacity) at all meetings of the NEC'. Cosa, the union's right-wing white collar section, has proposed an amendment that would remove the section in brackets and leave Mr Scargill with a casting vote.



André Previn at the Royal Festival Hall with his 17-strong horn section for Strauss's Alpine Symphony last night (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Fellow Tories snub 'maverick' MP

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Mr John Gorst, the rebel Conservative MP who sided with Labour members of the Commons Select Committee on Employment last week to pass a controversial report on the miners' strike, faces being shunned and ignored by fellow Conservatives on the committee, it emerged yesterday.

"Our confidence in the chair is pretty thin and a lot of fences are going to have to be repaired," one Conservative said. "The final report was the culmination of two months of bitterness and animosity."

Table with 3 columns: Area, Membership, and Nominal Delegates. Lists regions like Cokemans, Derbyshire, Durham, Kent, N Western, Lancashire, Midlands, Northumbria, North Wales, Nottingham, Scotland, S Derbyshire, South Wales, Yorkshire, and Durham mesh & eng.

Research cuts pose risk to health, vets say

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The British Veterinary Association urged the Government yesterday to reconsider proposals to cut research which would increase the risk of diseases spreading to humans and jeopardize the long-term future of the agricultural industry.

Fares in London 'will not rise' for three years

A fares standstill on London

A fares standstill on London buses and Underground for the next three years was promised yesterday by Dr Keith Bright, Chairman of London Regional Transport, who added that the only changes would be those necessary to keep up with inflation.

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Scandinavia to end air links with SA

Copenhagen - The governments of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, which own the airline SAS said yesterday they had agreed to cancel all its flights to South Africa with effect from the New Year. (Christopher Follett writes.)

Gang kidnaps noblewoman

Viterbo, Italy (Reuter, AFP) - The Marchesa Isabella Guglielmi, aged 37, was kidnapped yesterday by armed men outside the gates of the family estate at Montalto di Castro.

First service

Bangkok (AFP) - Two Thai sports stars shot each other after arguing about who should be the first to play in a restaurant.

Mafia inquiry

New York (AP) - Two men including the reputed Colombo crime family boss Carmine "Junior" Persico, were charged here yesterday with taking part in a so-called commission that functioned as the Mafia's board of directors.

Britons jailed

Dubai (AP) - Two Britons Desmond Watt, aged 50 and Thomas Allen McDermott, aged 27, were sentenced to seven-and-a-half years' imprisonment each for possessing more than £250,000 worth of counterfeit sterling notes.

Murder attempt

Stade, West Germany (AP) - A court here sentenced Andreas Sachse, a 23-year-old neo-Nazi to nine years' imprisonment for the attempted murder of a police officer.

Water saving

Gibraltar - The Ministry of Defence has bought 15,000 tons of water from Algeria, which marks a "considerable" saving on previous years when water was imported from Northumbria.

Japanese panda

Tokyo - Japan has its first panda born in captivity. The cub, born yesterday after 30 centimetres long but its sex has not yet been determined.

Mengele discovery

Reluctant Germans wait to examine the proof

West Germany is still not ready to say officially that the corpse exhumed in São Paulo is that of the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele. But most Germans seem to believe it is and want the matter closed.



Starving Sudanese children queuing for food in Tendelti camp. Thousands are fleeing the worst famine this century.

Delhi fury over West's failure to crack down on Sikh extremists

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

India has expressed anger about the activities of Sikh extremists in Britain, the United States and Canada, which officials here feel has grown beyond permissible political limits into dangerously violent intrigue.

The likelihood that the Air-India jet disaster was caused by a Sikh terrorist bomb is only the latest and most bloody and carried out by hatched extremists sheltered abroad, officials believe.

British backing for Indian security

British officials in London said that so pressure had been applied from Delhi because it was clearly unnecessary (Henry Stanhope writes). British security forces were already cooperating closely with those in India, although all details of their relationship were classified.

Team sure of finding how jet crashed

From Colin Hughes, Cork

Investigators studying wreckage of the Air-India Boeing 747 which crashed off Ireland on Sunday feel sure they will eventually discover what caused the disaster.

The key question, whether a bomb was involved, will be answered by an arduous piecing together of fragmentary information.

Ships and satellites join search for wreck

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The British nuclear-powered submarine Churchill has spent 24 hours searching the Atlantic sea-bed south-west of Ireland for the "black box" from the Air India Boeing 747 which crashed on Sunday.

It had been thought that operating at considerable depth she might be able to detect the position of the black box through the use of her sonars more easily than sonars on the surface of the sea. However, it is understood that she failed to detect anything and after 24 hours left the area.

Poor allies seek aid at Comecon summit

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Comecon summit, meeting here to plan the Soviet bloc's response to the West's hi-tech challenge, has become the scene of discreet but determined lobbying by the poorer participants in the talks, particularly Nicaragua and Ethiopia.

Meeting in the luxury Hotel Victoria - whose hard currency store has been tactfully closed for the duration of the three-day summit - delegates from Ethiopia and Nicaragua have been seeking an increase of aid from Moscow's allies.

During preparatory talks for the summit in January the Soviet Union indicated that it wanted to spread some of the burden of helping Ethiopia out of its present crisis. The Ethiopian delegates, classed as observers because their country does not belong to the 10-member Comecon trading alliance, have been trying to pin the East European partners down to concrete projects.

Confusion clouds white polling day in Zimbabwe

From Jan Raath, Bulawayo

Voters turned out in unexpectedly large numbers yesterday in elections for the 20 white seats in Zimbabwe's House of Assembly. The full result will be known late today.

Reports from across the country indicated that the two protagonists, the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe led by Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, and the Independent Zimbabwe Group, constituted by rebels from Mr Smith's party who broke away in 1982, were running evenly.

Senators deal blow to Reagan on civil rights

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In a triumph for the civil rights movement and a defeat for the Reagan Administration, the senate judiciary committee yesterday rejected the nomination of Mr William Bradford Reynolds as associate attorney-general.

Mr Reynolds has been the chief architect of the administration's controversial civil rights policies for the past four years, in which time he has become the nemesis of civil rights groups. The campaign against him during confirmation hearings was particularly bitter, focusing principally on his racial record.

The Beirut hijack drama

Amal invite hostage's girl friend

From Diana Geddes, Paris

New York (AP) - Two of the American hijack hostages have made international telephone calls from Beirut to assure families and friends that they are well.

Miss Niki Assimakopoulos, girlfriend of Mr Ralf Traugott, a Massachusetts car dealer, yesterday said he had told her his captors wanted her to go to Lebanon.

CIA predicts Soviet arms build-up

From Michael Binyon, Washington

American intelligence agencies predict that Soviet defence spending will rise by 3 or 4 per cent a year in real terms and say that the soviet economy can sustain this increase.

The forecast contradicts statements by some defence experts that the Russians will be unable to continue their arms build-up because of the burden it imposes on their creaking economy.

Plot foiled

Cairo, (AP) - Security forces have foiled a new foreign-engineered plot to carry out assassinations and acts of sabotage in Egypt, the leading newspaper Al-Ahram reported.



Gentle guidance for Emperor Hirohito, aged 84, around the Chinese pavilion at a science exposition in Japan.

EEC debates clear skies

From Ian Murray, Brussels

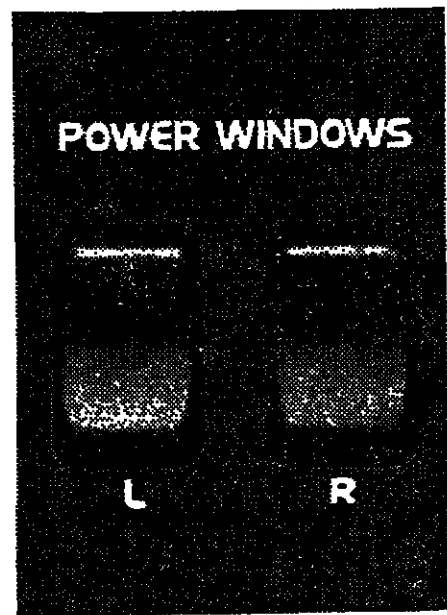
If all the European Commission proposals for cleaning Europe's polluted air are adopted, about 30 per cent of nitrous oxide, which forms acid rain, will be removed by the turn of the century.

Return? ... Jurisdiction ... HOUSE OF LORDS

Drug dealer will face imprisonment

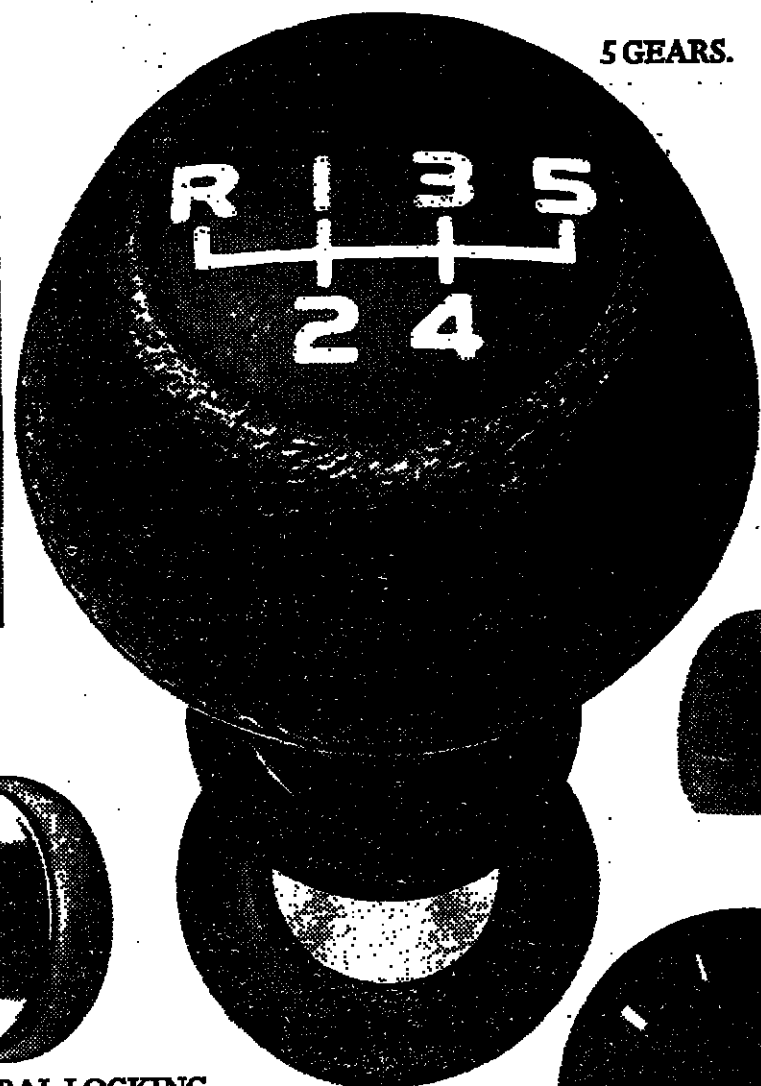
Tories ... erick MP

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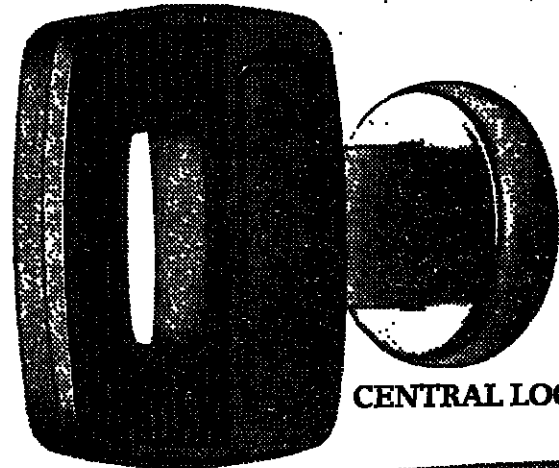
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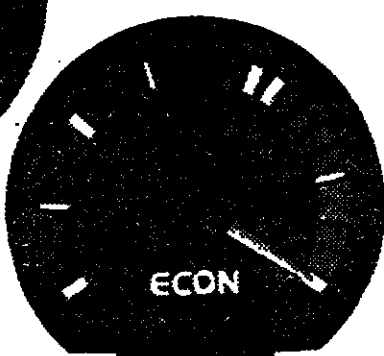
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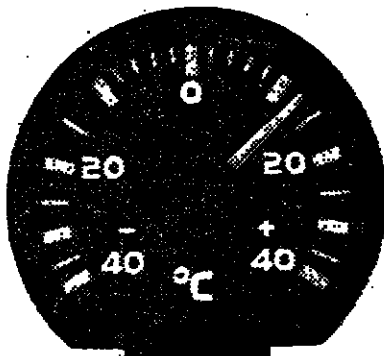
PLUSH UPHOLSTERY.



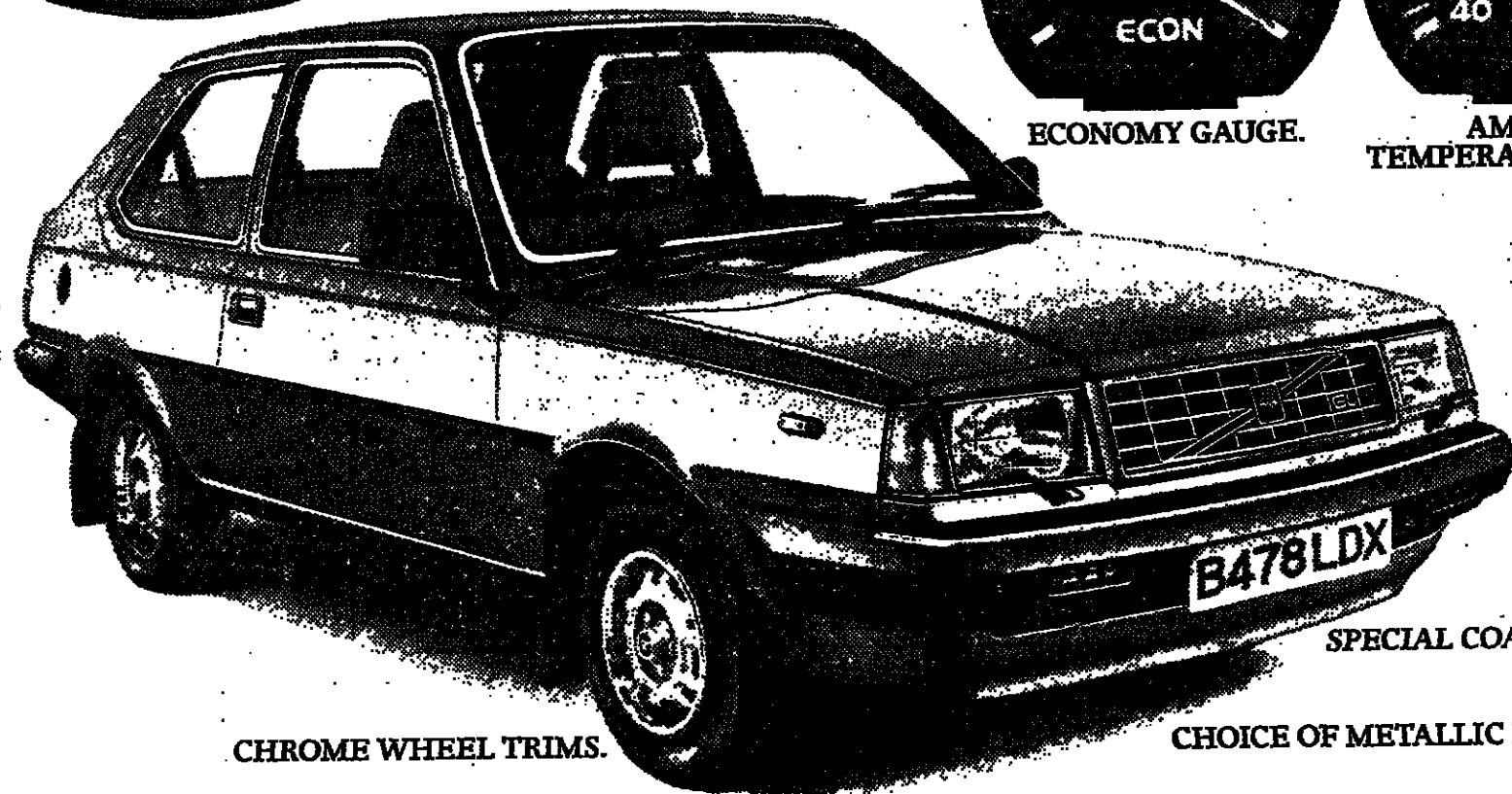
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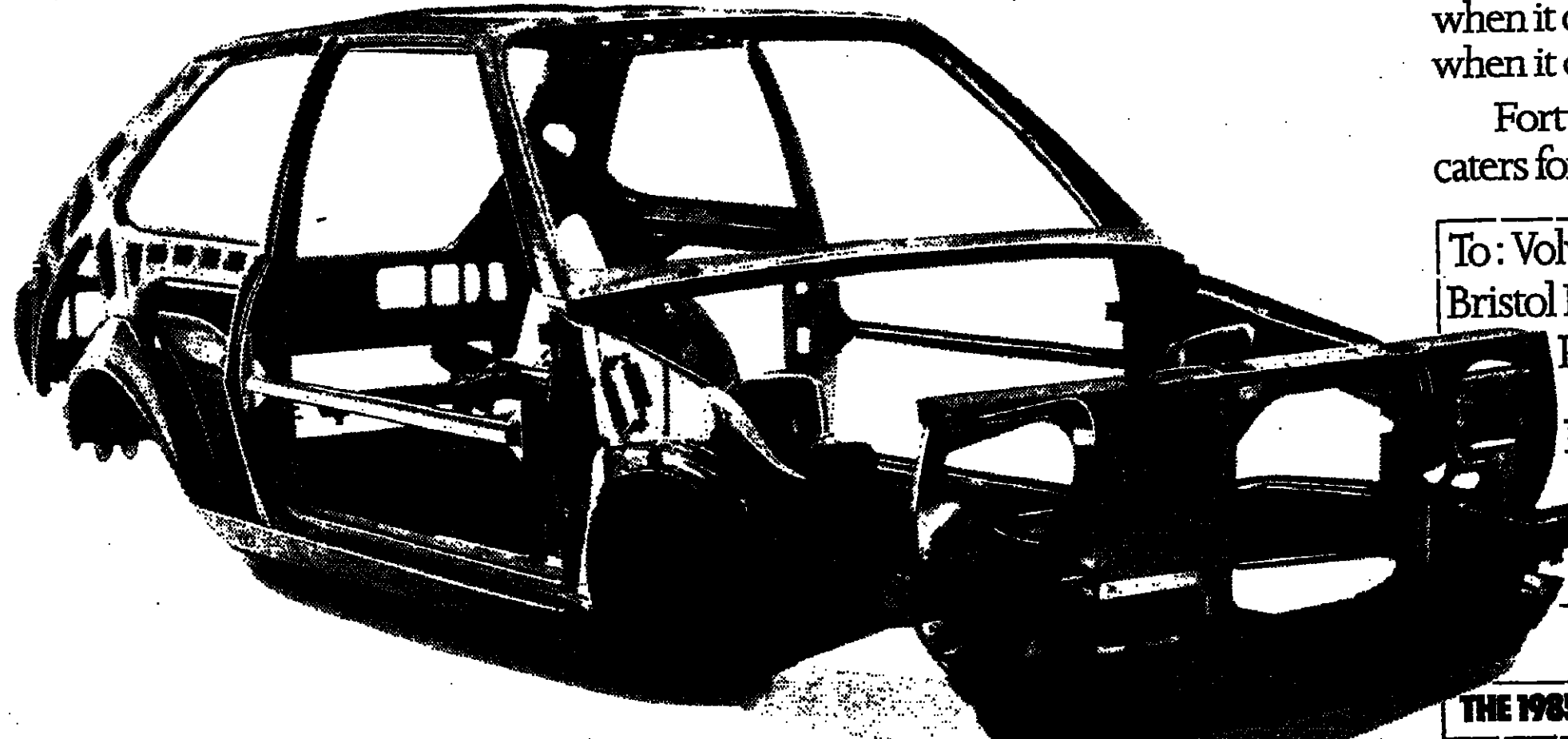
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THE 1985 VOLVO 340 SPECIAL EDITION. FROM £5941.

Leaders converge on Milan with a vision of European union

West Germany and France give substance to the dream

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC leaders have been asked to turn up early for the European summit in Milan today, to discuss in depth an idea developed in a Italian prison cell in the days of Mussolini - European Union.

Signor Altiero Spinelli, who first dreamt of the idea while imprisoned by Italy's fascist regime, masterminded the draft treaty on European Union passed by the European Parliament last March.

France and Germany have now come forward with their own ideas on a treaty of union. The treaty, with its grand schemes for federalism, is a document quite out of touch with today's political realities.

But it has forced the EEC's rulers to decide to ride the tiger of change towards a more cohesive Europe. This was necessary internally because, for economic reasons, it was clear that something had to be done to end the procrastination about creating a real common market.

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Essentially the British idea is to encourage more majority voting and make it much more difficult, though not impossible, to use the veto. Parliament would be involved in the preliminary consultations for drawing up any Community legislation, rather than merely being asked to give an opinion on it as it happens now.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is among EEC interior ministers who meet once a year to plan the 12-month cooperation programme.

The kind of objectives which Britain is seeking are similar to those Mr Brittan set out recently before Council of Europe justice ministers.

They include an agreement not to sell arms to any state which supports international terrorism, a better exchange of information between security forces, the exclusion of known terrorists from one another's countries and strict enforcement of the Vienna convention on diplomatic conduct.

contribution had left no time for talk of change, but when that was settled at Fontainebleau a year ago the summit immediately agreed to set up a committee to report on what could be done.

That committee produced the Dooge Report, named after Senator Jim Dooge, of Ireland, who chaired it. That report will form the main reason for today's talks, backed by the Spinelli draft.

It will be an excuse, because the Dooge Report does not reach any unanimous agreement on the essential areas: better decision-making procedures, the powers of Parliament and foreign relations. If the summit is to succeed, a realistic compromise will have to be found.

Britain, which with Denmark and Greece is the most reluctant convert to any concept of union, has put forward verbally its concept of such a compromise. In recent days some other countries have unhappily rallied to it.

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Changes in the way the EEC works will be the main subject discussed by Community leaders when they meet in Milan this morning. The summit goals will be speedier decision-making, a wider role for the European Parliament and improved co-operation on foreign policy. The aim then is to accept a timetable for a true, frontier-

less common market by 1992. The argument is between countries like Italy which want to work through an inter-governmental conference towards a new treaty for a new kind of European union, and countries led by Britain which want a gentlemen's agreement to increase majority voting, needing no treaty. Foreign ministers,

meeting alongside, will discuss international terrorism in the light of the Air-India crash and the TWA hijack. An opinion poll published yesterday by the European Commission showed that the British were most apathetic about European Union, with 55 per cent saying they were indifferent or failing to reply.



Last year's Fontainebleau line-up meets again in Milan today. From left: Mr Papanandrou, (Greece), Mr Schloter (Denmark), Mr Werner (Luxembourg), Dr FitzGerald (Ireland), Mrs Thatcher, M Mitterrand (France), Signor Craxi (Italy), Mr Lubbers (The Netherlands), Mr Martens (Belgium), and Herr Kohl (West Germany).

THE FUTURE

A case of multiple choice

Brussels - About 300 proposals will have to be agreed by the EEC in the next six years if it is to turn into a true common market (Ian Murray writes).

They are split out in a thick White Paper issued a fortnight ago by the European Commission, when Lord Cockfield, the commissioner involved, said they would fundamentally change our way of life.

He was sent to the Commission by Mrs Margaret Thatcher with orders to visit the unexciting post headed "Internal Market" and to use his undoubted grasp of minuscule detail to sort out a work programme needed to tear down all the internal frontiers of the community, which cost the EEC economy about £4,200 million a year.

The paper has had to go into everything from tractor foot-plates to British rabies restrictions. It has had to bear terrorists and drug smugglers in mind. But his aim is to make it as simple for an EEC citizen to travel, work and trade in any country of the Community as it now is in his own country.

The summit is due to tackle the White Paper after having discussed how to improve the decision-making procedures of the Community.

Although every nation pays lip-service to the idea of a true common market, each also has its list of "special cases" for exemption from the 300 proposals. Unless decision-making can be streamlined, the internal market will be reared out of existence long before 1992.

TRADE BARRIERS

Britain hopes to free the market from its fetters

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Britain stands to gain considerably if the Milan summit agrees to press on with the freeing of the internal market of the European Community.

For industry, one of the big shocks when Britain entered the Community in 1973, was to discover not a free market but one with a range of subtle barriers to trade.

Most of those impediments still exist, together with the widely-held view that Britain is not as good at applying them as other countries. Freeing the market would help Britain's exporters, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) believes, without opening up a floodgate for imports.

There would also be advantages for British and other EEC consumers from lower costs. The CBI estimates that frontier delays cost European industry £7 billion a year, or 5 to 7 per cent of unit costs.

There are six main British priorities at Milan for freeing the internal market. These are customs procedures, technical regulations and standards, transport, freedom in services, access to public contracts in other EEC countries and phased abolition of state subsidies.

Simplification and uniformity of customs procedures, including the replacement of 70 different customs forms with a single administrative document by 1988, and the speeding up of processing through increased use of computers, should eliminate many customs delays.

British exporters have long complained of the delay and cost involved in getting a product tested and certified for sale in another EEC member state. The Milan summit is expected to give the go-ahead to

COMPETITION

An export invasion from the East

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Japan's "laser beam" approach to exporting to Europe - targeting its sales efforts to specific products in narrow market sectors - is the chief reason for its huge trade imbalance with the Community, which last year totalled more than \$10 billion (£7.7 billion).

The imbalance has caused headaches for the Community trade ministers and resulted in the recent outbreak of Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who warned of massive protectionist measures against Japanese goods by the end of the year unless it adopted quantifiable import targets.

The great fear is that if the Americans find strict import controls against Japanese goods irresistible, similar actions may be unavoidable in the EEC to prevent products excluded from the US being dumped there.

Already Europe has been saturated with Japanese television sets, video recorders, hi-fi equipment and other consumer electronic products, and has faced an onslaught from manufacturers of products ranging from zips to fork lift trucks.

There are now clear signs in the Japanese electronics industry that, after the slow down in the growth of consumer product sales, greater attention will be paid to the industrial and office automation fields. High value-added products like robots and office information systems, and in the longer term sophisticated home automation equipment, are fast becoming priorities.

Increasing signs of tension between the EEC and Japan are emerging. The demand from EEC foreign ministers on June 20 for "a clearly verifiable commitment" from Japan to a sustained increase in imports of manufactured goods stung the Japanese to claim that one of the major causes of the surplus was "European industry's delay in making necessary structural adjustments".

In Milan, ministers will again call on Japan to spell out specific targets for increasing imports and a much more detailed plan for reducing the surplus. Proceedings under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have not been ruled out, and European government heads will want assurances that the expected next round of market-opening measures to be announced soon by Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, will include liberalization of Japanese financial markets and the internationalization of the yen.

EEC trade deficit with Japan: 1979 \$5,105m; 1980 \$8,808m; 1981 \$10,342m; 1982 \$9,504m; 1983 \$10,402m; 1984 \$10,071m.

Japanese quartz watch exports to EEC by volume: 1981 6,751,000; 1982 7,833,000; 1983 10,154,000; 1984 11,888,000.

EUREKA

Mitterrand bandwagon gathers momentum

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Support is growing among European countries for the Eureka project, which President Mitterrand suggested as a more industrially applicable alternative to Star Wars, the US programme of research into ballistic missile defences.

Eureka is less of a defence project. It is aimed at developing high-technology lasers, electronics and materials for commercial and industrial telecommunications, computer and automation systems.

When the heads of government meet this weekend, the proposal for greater technical collaboration will be one of the key items on the agenda.

Earlier this week, the European Commission tabled a range of research ideas which would form the basis of a European Technological Community, thereby extending Mitterrand's design.

Eureka is in the mould of previous French initiatives to bridge the technology gap between Europe and the US.

Products of those endeavours include Concorde, the European Airbus, the Superphenix fast breeder nuclear reactor and the Ariane satellite launch vehicle.

There has also been an expensive failure in a scheme which began under the title Plan Calcul to combat the American computer invasion.

French proposals emphasized development in lasers, optics and electronics as important elements to a Eureka programme, but there have been fewer suggestions about how it would be organized.

With the recent failure of five European governments (Britain, France, Italy, Spain and West Germany) to agree on the new military aircraft, prospects for a more ambitious venture are difficult to assess. But it is that gap in the original Eureka plan which the European Commission's blueprint may fill.

In a White Paper to be presented by the Commission to the summit, 10 areas of science and technology have been identified for Community action. They include:

● Biotechnology: The fostering of research, already under way, into new biology-based industrial technologies. This is under three headings - genetic and biomolecular studies, health and medical applications, and agro-industry developments.

● Broadcasting and telecommunications: Extending all services for wider and cheaper personal and business communications.

● Information computers: Concentration on the new optoelectronic and microelectronics technologies to strengthen Europe's abilities in information technology.

● New materials: Development of alloys and ceramic-based compounds stronger and lighter structures.

● Oceanic and geological technology: Development of products and services for exploiting the natural resources of the land and sea.

EEC SUMMIT

The unreal institution

Brussels - The EEC summit - or European Council to give it its proper title - has no official role in the structure of the Community. In theory, it does not exist (Ian Murray writes).

There are three summits a year. One is in the country which holds the presidency during the six months it is in office. The third is in "a Community city" in the first half of the year. This is usually Brussels, but it has been in

Luxembourg, Strasbourg and - when Britain first held the presidency - in Rome.

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Democrats save \$1m and faces

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Democratic Party has killed off its mid-term "mini-convention" next year, saying it would be a waste of time, money and energy. The near inevitability of the party for the time being has thus been reinforced.

The mid-term convention would have been the showcase for presidential hopefuls, effectively marking the start of the process of selecting a candidate for the November, 1988 election. Mr Paul Kirk, the party's new chairman, said that was too soon to begin the battle.

Additionally, he warned that it could have deflected attention from the congressional elections November next year.

Apart from that reasoning, and also the fact that cancelling the convention saved \$1 million, the Democrats are worried about putting a political foot wrong at a time when the party is going through a great deal of soul-searching.

Under the influence of Mr Kirk, the Democrats are quietly trying to work out a clear direction, free of publicity, in the hope of reversing their continuing decline. Many Democratic leaders feared that a mid-term convention would serve merely to bring party divisions to the fore.

The Democratic national committee plans to spend \$300,000 on interviews and voter polls in search of themes that Democrats can use to regain national support. The study will be run by a marketing expert because, in the words of the party's executive director, "We're not even making the assumption that we know what questions to ask any more."

The views of the South and the West will be especially important, since disaffection from the party was most acute in those areas in 1984.

Blame laid at Pretoria's door

Churches condemn Rand killing

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

South African church leaders yesterday blamed the Government for violence in black townships on the East Rand in which eight men died and seven were injured in bizarre circumstances.

The annual national conference of the South African Council of Churches adjourned yesterday to allow delegates to attend a hastily arranged memorial service in Dudzua, one of three townships where the incidents happened on Wednesday.

In a separate development, police disclosed that they were investigating whether a call on Tuesday by Dr Beyers Naude, general secretary, for the churches council to support "more meaningful and effective non-violent actions including a well-planned action of civil disobedience" constituted a criminal act.

Police maintain that seven of the men blew themselves up when grenades they had been planning to throw at the homes of black policemen exploded prematurely. The eighth, they

said, blew himself up in trying to sabotage an electricity sub-station.

After a lengthy private discussion of the East Rand violence, the churches conference, which embraces all denominations in South Africa apart from the Government-supporting White Dutch Reformed Church and some independent black churches, issued the following statement:

"In war the first casualty is truth. As follower of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Light, we declare that the violence perpetrated there and against Bishop Simeon Nkoane came from the side of the authorities.

"We believe that the South African state, which claims to act in the name of God, has led the majority of the people of this land to believe that they are under attack, and we believe that there will be no peace until a government of the people, for the people and by the people has come into office."

A petrol bomb was thrown at the home of Bishop Nkoane in the Kwathema township early on Wednesday and three shots were allegedly fired at him. He is well-respected in the black community, and is one of two suffragan bishops serving under the Right Reverend Desmond Tutu.

Information on the dead men is scanty, though several are said to be members of the Congress of South African Students, an affiliate of the United Democratic Front, which professes radical but non-violent opposition to the government.

Meanwhile Chief George Matanzima, Prime Minister of Transkei, one of South Africa's four nominally independent tribal "homelands", yesterday accused the ANC of having planted limpet mines which blew up public utilities in Umtata, the capital, on Wednesday.

JOHANNESBURG: Police are said to be considering charges of sabotage or terrorism against the seven wounded men, who are in hospital under guard (AP reports).

Parole for Sirhan turned down

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Despite his impassioned plea for freedom, a three-member board rejected on Wednesday the seventh request for parole by Sirhan Sirhan, Senator Robert Kennedy's assassin.

The board made its decision after only five minutes of discussion following a three-hour hearing at Soledad Prison during which Sirhan declared: "I'm sorry for all the trouble, heartache and pain I have caused for the loss of Robert Kennedy."

Sirhan's lawyer said afterwards that the parole board had not given sufficient thought to the matter.

Sirhan, aged 41, claims that the justice system has treated him unfairly in comparison with others who have committed worse crimes but serve less time in prison.

He was convicted in 1969 for the murder of Senator Kennedy, which had been much aggravated by the common agricultural policy. "That mood" has got to be recognized," the official said.

In this context the American threat to ban EEC pasta in retaliation against Community controls on citrus imports was also mentioned. "There is a growing level of frustration with issues like pasta, citrus, tinned fruits and so on hanging around since 1970. We want to negotiate now."

Union. The plea came just before the end of the couple's trial. Under the agreement in which they pleaded guilty to the one charge of plotting to commit espionage, Ogorodnikov was immediately given an eight-year prison term, while

his wife will formally be sentenced to 18 years on July 15.

Bush warns Delors of trade anger

From Ian Murray, Brussels

US Vice-President George Bush spent nearly an hour and a half yesterday discussing the delicate relationship between Washington and the EEC with Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission.

A main topic was European participation in the Strategic Defence Initiative research programme. According to a senior American official, there was no discussion in detail, although the question of technological exchanges had been raised.

The vice-president stressed that we are very open and flexible in the type and nature of SDI co-operation in this area. The US is going to go forward on this research and we feel that it is worth pursuing. If Europe wants to co-operate, that's fine. We are open to whatever ideas and proposals Europeans might have."

Mr Bush also explained the "very fragile mood" of Americans about trade relationships, which had been much aggravated by the common agricultural policy. "That mood" has got to be recognized," the official said.

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The Ogorodnikovs were accused of offering FBI agent Richard Miller \$65,000 (£50,000) in cash and gold for the documents.



Miss Norma Levy, aged 38, who was at the centre of a British Government sex scandal 12 years ago leading to the resignations of Lord Lambton and Lord Jellicoe, has been charged in Philadelphia with prostitution as part of an escort service. The case continues on August 23.

Ali Agca dominates the Pope death plot trial - even in his absence

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The courtroom seems almost oppressed by the absence of Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turk who shot and wounded the Pope in 1981 and has interrupted his testimony at the trial of his alleged accomplices for what he calls "further reflection."

The case in which he normally sits when not testifying is empty. The accused now under interrogation is Mr Musa Serdar Celebi, one of four more Turks accused of having taken part in the plot to kill the Pope in St Peter's Square.

He is obviously oppressed by the thought of Ali Agca because

Alberta Premier gives up Tory party leadership

Toronto, (NYT). The Premier of Alberta, Mr Peter Lougheed, resigned on Wednesday as head of the province's ruling Progressive Conservative Party, a step likely to lead to his departure as Government leader as early as September.

Mr Lougheed, aged 56, had served as head of the party for 20 years and as Premier for 14. Political observers here say they expect his resignation to lead to a hotly contested leadership convention in the autumn.

The Conservatives hold 75 of 79 seats in the Alberta legislature.

Emigrés jailed in FBI spy case

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

In a surprise move, two Russian emigrés, Svetlana Ogorodnikova and her husband Nikolai pleaded guilty to conspiring to pass secret FBI documents to the Soviet

often dramatic, and frequently contradictory, testimony has disposed of the "Bulgarian connection".

His behaviour has clearly damaged his own case: whether the damage is irreparable depends largely on how Mr Sergei Antonov, the one Bulgarian in custody of three accused of conspiracy, handles himself in the witness box.

The official Bulgarian observer delegation and Mr Antonov's defence are jubilant at the way Ali Agca has so decisively put his credibility in doubt as a witness.

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Cholera fear

Dhaka (Reuters) - Bangladesh has put medical teams on a war footing to combat a possible cholera outbreak among a million people marooned by monsoon floods, Dr Nasimul Alam of the Government Health Service said.

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THE ARTS

Cinema

Bogdanovich's tear-jerker to test British nerves

Mask (15)

Empire

Mrs Soffel (PG)

Plaza

Suburbia (18)

ICA; Screen-on-the-Hill

Restless Natives (PG)

Warner; Classic Tottenham Court Road

It will be interesting to see if Peter Bogdanovich's *Mask* performs as handsomely at the box-offices in this country as it has done in America, where the tear-ducts of the public are inclined to open more easily to sentiment. The story is sad but true: the life and death of Rocky Dennis, who suffered from a disease called craniofacial dysplasia, which caused his face to expand and deform monstrously.

What made Rocky unusual was his intelligence, cheerfulness and determination to live a fulfilling and sociable life. His main ally was his mother, Rusty, tough enough at one level to support him and yet still sufficiently vulnerable, in her susceptibility to drugs, to rely in turn on her son. Bogdanovich's skill in capturing unusual environments is called out by the unconventional setting of their lives - a biker community in lower-middle-class Southern California. At first sight noisy, aggressive and intimidating, the bikers have their own social proprieties and community feeling, paradoxically offering Rocky a more protective environment than he might find among conventionally "nicer" people.

The film has several strengths. Anna Hamilton Phelan was stimulated to turn screenwriter purely by a chance meeting, in hospital, with the odd couple; and, even when it falls into conventional tricks of tear-jerking, her screenplay has a disarming honesty and intensity. Even though his face is covered by the elaborate make-up, Eric Stoltz produces a winning and wholly unsentimental performance out of his voice, his body and his small bright eyes. As the mother, Cher does best with firework scenes like Rusty's confrontation with a headmaster who wants to shunt her boy off to a special school.

After a while though the dramatic possibilities run down, and the film is reduced to inspirational variations on



Rusty's spirit, Rocky's courage: Cher and Eric Stoltz with fellow "bikers" in *Mask*

Rusty's spirit and Rocky's courage. Rocky's doomed first love with a blind girl might also prove a daunting test for British sentiments, and minimize regret for the further footage cut from the film by its producers. This is one of the causes of the acrimonious dispute between Bogdanovich and Universal Pictures which became a *cause* at the Cannes Film Festival.

According to Bogdanovich the excised scene involved the death of the patriarch of the biker set (Harry Carey Jr) and was important in showing Rocky's first encounter with death. The director's other complaint was that Universal replaced the songs by Bruce Springsteen with others by Bob Seger. While Cher, the screen Rusty, sides with Universal, the real-life Rusty supports Bogdanovich's case, on the grounds that her son loved Springsteen and never knew Seger's music.

Mrs Soffel also recreates a true story, dating from 1901, when the wife of the warden of Allegheny County Prison, Pittsburg, aided the escape of the Biddle brothers under sentence of death for robbery and murder, and joined them on their

doomed flight to the Canadian border.

For those who appreciate the oddities of history, the story was filmed once before, when it was still a topical event. Edwin Porter's one-minute drama *Capture of the Biddle Brothers*, shot in a snow-covered woodland in the winter of 1901-02, survives as one of the most haunting fragments of cinema incunabula. Fearsome silent ghosts from that misty past, a posse of armed horsemen rush towards the camera from the far distance, to overtake the Biddles' horse-sleigh and engage in the fatal shoot-up.

The same scene provides the best sequence of *Mrs Soffel*, which has almost all the ingredients for a very good film without actually managing to be one. The director Gillian Armstrong and the gifted production/costume designer Luciana Arrighi (who previously collaborated on *My Brilliant Career*) faultlessly evoke the physical look of the period, and the contrasts between the cold inferno of the gaol and the cosy Victorian clutter of the Soffels' quarters. The photography (by another outstanding Australian talent, Russell Boyd)

points up the further contrasts between the oppressive gloom of the prison and the icy brightness into which the trio escape.

Mrs Soffel is played by Diane Keaton, nervous, gentle, impressionable. As Ed Biddle, the Americanized Mel Gibson proves a star of old-world charisma. He has acquired a darkly sultry look and abandoned his Australian twang for a deep-throated drawl on John Wayne lines. Matthew Modine (from *Birdy*) gives Jack Biddle a touch of dangerous mania.

The story has rich possibilities, but it is these that the script, by Ron Nyswaner (who wrote *Smithereens*), fails to explore. There is never any sense of real conflict (or even neurosis) about Mrs Soffel's decision to abandon her apparently happy home-life for this dangerous adventure; or any awareness of the scale of the adventure in the social judgments of the time. Equally the Biddles' feelings for her remain frustratingly obscure, until the film's sudden recovery in the tragic final moments of the love affair - but even this is followed by some distinctly anti-climactic tie-up scenes.

Suburbia (released in the United

States as *The Wild Side*) is an archetypal product of Roger Corman's New World Pictures: a tough, energetic, cheaply-made but thoughtfully crafted popular entertainment. The writer-director Penelope Spheeris comes from the kind of stirring background that often makes for the best popular entertainers: her father ran an amusement arcade until he was murdered; her mother was a nine-times married alcoholic; and Ms Spheeris herself worked her way through UCLA film school as a 'hostess' in an establishment called The Pink Pussy Cat.

She describes herself as "weird", and easily identifies and sympathizes with the punk life which was the subject of her documentary *Decline of Western Civilization* and provides the setting for *Suburbia*. It mixes horror-comic and melodrama to produce a startling and only partly fantastic image of contemporary urban life. The film portrays a punk "family" of runaways who live in messy harmony in a derelict house. When tensions arise, resulting in violence and ultimately death, it is not their doing but the result of the hostility and suspicion of the respectable, conformist neighbourhood community.

Like *Mask*, the film defends the merits of an alternative life-style. The case is frankly loaded. The punks act tough but are sweet as could be at heart - loving, caring and given to reading fairy-stories in bed. Parents and adults in general are shown as uncomprehending, uncaring, vindictive, alcoholic, violent, would-be rapists, hooked on cheap commercial sexuality.

Unfortunately, *Restless Natives* represented Britain in the recent Tokyo Festival Young Cinema Competition: it is so disastrous as to make the reported withdrawal from production of *Thora-EMI*, who financed it, surprising. The script by Nialan Dunnet won the 1984 National Screenplay Competition sponsored by Lloyds Bank; but it looks as if everyone involved in the project had the idea that, given a Scottish city (Edinburgh as a change from Glasgow), Scottish accents, a couple of daft Scots lads with an obsessional scheme, a cute girl, and zany-sentimental-inconsequential dialogue, anyone can make a Bill Forsyth comedy.

The director, Michael Hoffman, seems to be particularly short on any sense of comedy and timing. The idea is a slight one (the heroes turn highwaymen and hold 'em up tourist buses) stretched beyond its limits and confounded by gross improbabilities and a sub-plot whose relevance is never for a moment apparent.

David Robinson

Television

Engaging flexibility

The second part of Balanchine (BBC2) hinged on the great choreographer's own view of his art: what he thought about what he did. As so often happens when a master seeks to elucidate his mastery, the more he explained the less we understood. His "Dance makes us aware of time" rivalled for impenetrability his friend Stravinsky's gnomic "Music can express nothing". The two conspirators sat around in monochrome, scoffing Balanchine's reportedly toothsome home cooking, grand old chums together. "Let us be drunk", suggested Igor. Also in monochrome, and equally endearing, were stills of the late choreographer's highly gymnastic cat going through its paces.

What dance itself can express was admirably illustrated by film-clips from a dozen or so ravishing productions at the New York City Ballet, the sheer power of which served to underline just why the master's voice was so marginal in this context. But he did contribute the most directly engaging line of the programme: "I like

Martin Cropper

Tango

Astor Piazzolla
Almeida Theatre

As part of an audience entranced by Astor Piazzolla and his Quinteto Tango Nuevo on Wednesday evening, I kept thinking of two other small ensembles whose temperaments and achievements seemed markedly similar to those of this extraordinary group from Argentina. In the way that they achieve both the preservation and the refinement of important traditions of vernacular music, the Chieftains, of Ireland, and the Modern Jazz Quartet, of the United States, provide close parallels. All are most at home on the concert stage, but from beneath the decorous surface issues a pungent smell of the music's origins.

Like jazz, the tango was born in the back alley, Astor Piazzolla, a former pupil of Alberto Ginastera and Nadia Boulanger, has spent 50 years developing for it a broader and richer range of expression, but the pronounced sensuality of the original model is apparent in practically every bar. Señor Piazzolla is a virtuoso

Richard Williams

Concerts

Enigmatic humour

COE Soloists

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Principal players from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, which existed well in advance of any European Year initiative, turned themselves into a yet smaller group on Wednesday for a less varied programme than at first announced. The largest number came together only for Dvořák's mainly wind-instrument Serenade, Op 44, which if anything served to emphasize their respective individuality.

After an *Alla marcia* at the outset that was neat and good-natured and not at all assertive, they caught the swaying rhythm of the Andante rather better

than the folk-dance character of the Minuet movement with its furious episode. The contrast of suave clarinet and caustic oboe highlighted the finale as well as characterizing the tonal balance earlier.

A late change of programme replaced the string sextet of Schoenberg's *Verklarte Nacht* with more wind-instrument music in Mozart's B flat Divertimento (K249), for what reason affecting the strings we do not know. There were still four players with the makings of a possible quartet among them for Mozart's Clarinet Quintet, although the cellist seemed to have his own ideas on dynamics in the slow movement here.

The solo clarinet playing, unidentified as between the listed Richard Hoford and

Nicholas Rodwell, tended towards matter-of-fact and even stolid statements in the early movements, but later became more expressive to good effect, enhancing the last and most graceful variation in the finale. In the Divertimento at the start of the programme the pairs of oboes, horns and bassoons blended to mellow and genial purpose.

The concert was part of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Previn series, charging £1 for the programme book each time with the same 48 pages of advertising and blurb and only a different four-page insert of notes, which would hardly seem to be in the best interests of the public they seek.

Noël Goodwin

Nash Ensemble

Wigmore Hall

Robin Holloway's Serenade for wind quintet and string quintet (written in 1983 and premiered on Wednesday by the Nash Ensemble) is a bit of a joke; but on whom does the joke rebound? Holloway is one of the most conspicuously successful and conspicuously musical of those composers who have recently turned back to their affectionate memories of the music of the past as a way out of the modernist maze. His actual reworkings of Schumann, for instance, have deservedly become well known. But in this Serenade he trips, magpie-like, half remembers some rather good old music, and turns it into something which, for all its pleasantness, is just not quite as good.

Serenade in E flat Mozart is suggested (though not by the music scoring, which rather indicates Dvořák, who gets a look in during the bustling finale) and we start with the opening of the "Linz" Symphony but in the minor on the strings and with a little answering feminine phrase for the wind: the first movement Allegro molto sounds like bits of a bity Haydn theme (or is it Beethoven's Op 131? but there

is some strenuous two-part counterpoint from the "Prague" Symphony finale and a graceful little second subject culled from Schubert's Ninth.

But not exactly. None of this is at all literal (and Holloway may well have heard quite different pieces); it is all knitted together quite convincingly into a quirky sonata-form movement, complete with repeat of the slow introduction (from Haydn's "Drum Roll"). The impression of stylistic unease, however, is compounded by the second movement's Barcarolle, which starts off, as the sort of thing a simple-minded Brahms might have written but becomes progressively more weird and wonderful without revealing much underneath its pretty surface.

The tripping flute and bassoon solos are nice enough, but when, at the climax the wind unmistakably intone the echo of a notoriously popular waltz, the mood, which up to this point one can believe is delicately ironic, becomes rather giggly. The *Rondo buffo* deserves rather more than the first movement. Holloway's description of "cubist-Haydn", as a broken-up theme for the strings modelled directly on Haydn is juxtaposed with a perky wind subject which sounds as if it is going to produce a full-scale joke about a fugue but does not. An excellent first performance by the Nash Ensemble under Lionel Friend; they also played Tippen's Sonata for four horns and Mozart's Serenade in B flat, K361.

Nicholas Kenyon

Pantomime

Tricycle

Cast away on the island of Tobago, an ageing white hotelier paces his lonely veranda desperately rehearsing a one-man show to justify the brochure's advertisement of nightly entertainment. The show is *Robinson Crusoe*, in which he hopes to involve his reluctant West Indian manservant, Jackson, to whom, as a bait, he offers the title role, casting himself as a white cannibal called Thursday.

Jackson reluctantly complies, tries out his employer's lines and improves on them, improvises desert-island calypso and works out a novel fate for Crusoe's pre-colonial parrot ("choked to death with prejudice"). The tourist show is still far from complete at the end of the evening, but by then the two have formed a firm partnership and worked their way through every conceivable meaning of the word "pantomime".

As you will gather, this is a post-colonial fable, and its author - Derek Walcott - knows his business, having devoted his career as a playwright and director for 20 years of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop to recording "the anguish of the race". In this piece he packs an amazing density of argument on his country's cultural and political inheritance into a two-character comedy, winding up with the idea that colonialism is itself a pantomime played out by performers who are temperamentally ill-suited to their roles.

Walcott's achievement is that he works his way through these arguments without intruding on the comedy. Whatever else it may be, *Pantomime* is, as he claims, "an entirely human drama between two people". Mr Trewe, the hotelier, is a vaudeville has-been who still longs to perform. Jackson is a natural performer who only wants to run the hotel. What they offer is a brilliantly extended set of master-and-servant variations, in which the partners continually switch roles and show that it is often the servant who enjoys higher status: as when the haughty Jackson refuses to serve breakfast until his master has put his trousers on.

The atmosphere is generally playful and good-natured, but the harsh voices of the colonial past keep thrusting through. Trewe, for instance, tries to restore the status quo by calling off the rehearsal in an authoritarian bark; only to be outnumbered by Jackson who slips back into subservient dumb insolence.

Alby James's production for the Temba Theatre Company drives home the play's public statements with speed and force, but never at the expense of the individual partnership between Terence Longdon and

Theatre

Raul Newney: crumpled, mock-apologetic authority coming gradually to terms with virile, self-respecting servitude. It is beautifully in keeping with the piece and its performers that Jackson's masterstroke is to tap his employer's suppressed hatred by playing the pantomime dame in a photo-mask of Trewe's estranged wife: an act of personal friendship whatever its allegorical after-taste.

Irving Wardle

Up Against It

The Lost Theatre

The shade of the late Joe Orton hums some unlikely places. Until tomorrow evening his impish presence may be felt at the Lost Theatre, a recycled church hall at 450 Fulham Road, SW6. *Up Against It*, receiving here its world premiere, is a stage version of the screenplay Orton wrote for the Beatles just before his untimely death in 1967. It may be less than a masterpiece in any medium, and this is by no means the most effective form it could take on stage, but this resourceful production by Tony Conway and Edward Ball provides great fun for Old Ortonians of any age.

Bizarrely, there are only three roles here which the Beatles could reasonably have filled: the two delinquents, McTurk and Low, and the anarchist leader Ramsay. Their apertures is signalled by the Sergeant Pepper tunics they wear and by the white-face make-up of the other actors.

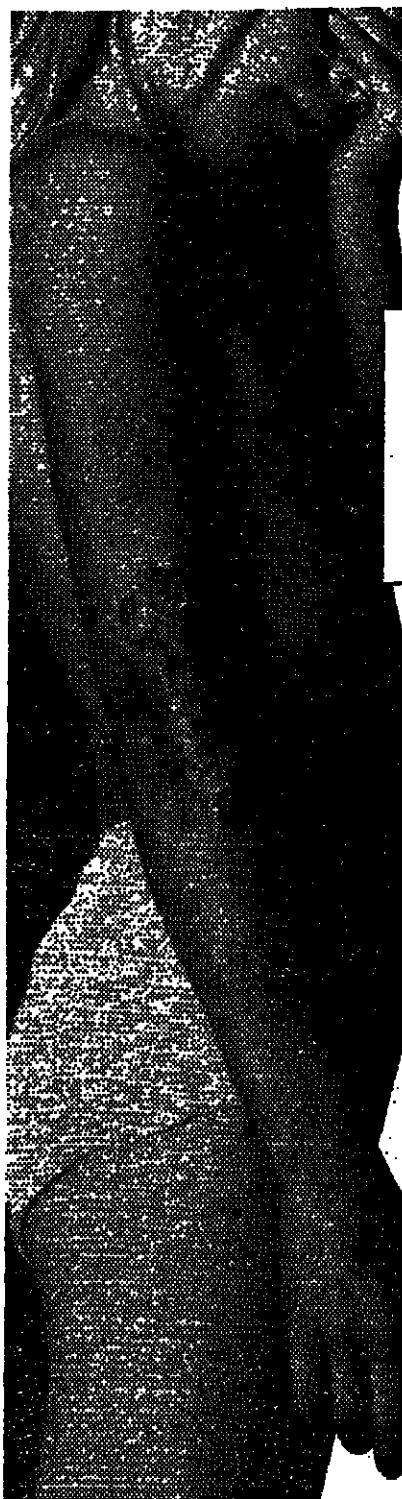
Martin Cropper

The themes of lust and necroclasm make an early entrance. McTurk and Low are expelled from their home town for, respectively, compromising a priest's niece and blowing up the war memorial. After various ludicrous adventures, including near-rapes at the hands of a WPC, they join an anarchist group bent on assassinating the new (woman) Prime Minister.

Lunatic gender reversals are the order of the day. The entire cabinet is female, but the real joke is that they behave like ersatz male homosexuals rather than like the no-nonsense career women we have come to know. The political process is sublimely trivialized. At the instant the Prime Minister is shot in the Albert Hall, she is not urging us to put Britain back on its feet, she is complaining of bitchy comments her new curtains have attracted. This play says volumes more about sexual stereotyping than any number of pious feminist tracts.

Elsewhere, the cheeky-chap humour tends to grate, but the sub-Wildean aphorisms - "If you're rich it doesn't matter whether you disgust people or not" - are worth waiting for. The delivery of some of those lines could do with polishing, but this is a youthful company whose timing can only improve.

Christine Corrigan as the dragonish WPC and Mairead Carty as the priest's niece both overact to hilarious perfection; of the men, the spring-heeled Paddy O'Connor makes an agreeably daft Low.



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New aces in the Las Vegas pack

It's boom time again for the gambling capital of the world, back from the doldrums with an up-market image. David Spanier shows how an injection of energy and money is paying off

Las Vegas is changing. Downtown, formerly the nadir of noise and neon, is moving up-market. You can take a walk around the main block of old casinos, night or day, and actually hear yourself speak, even see the sky. I don't mean to imply that good taste is taking over. It's still the same old dazzle of light and ratchet of slots. But, no doubt about it, downtown is trying to acquire a hi-tech image.

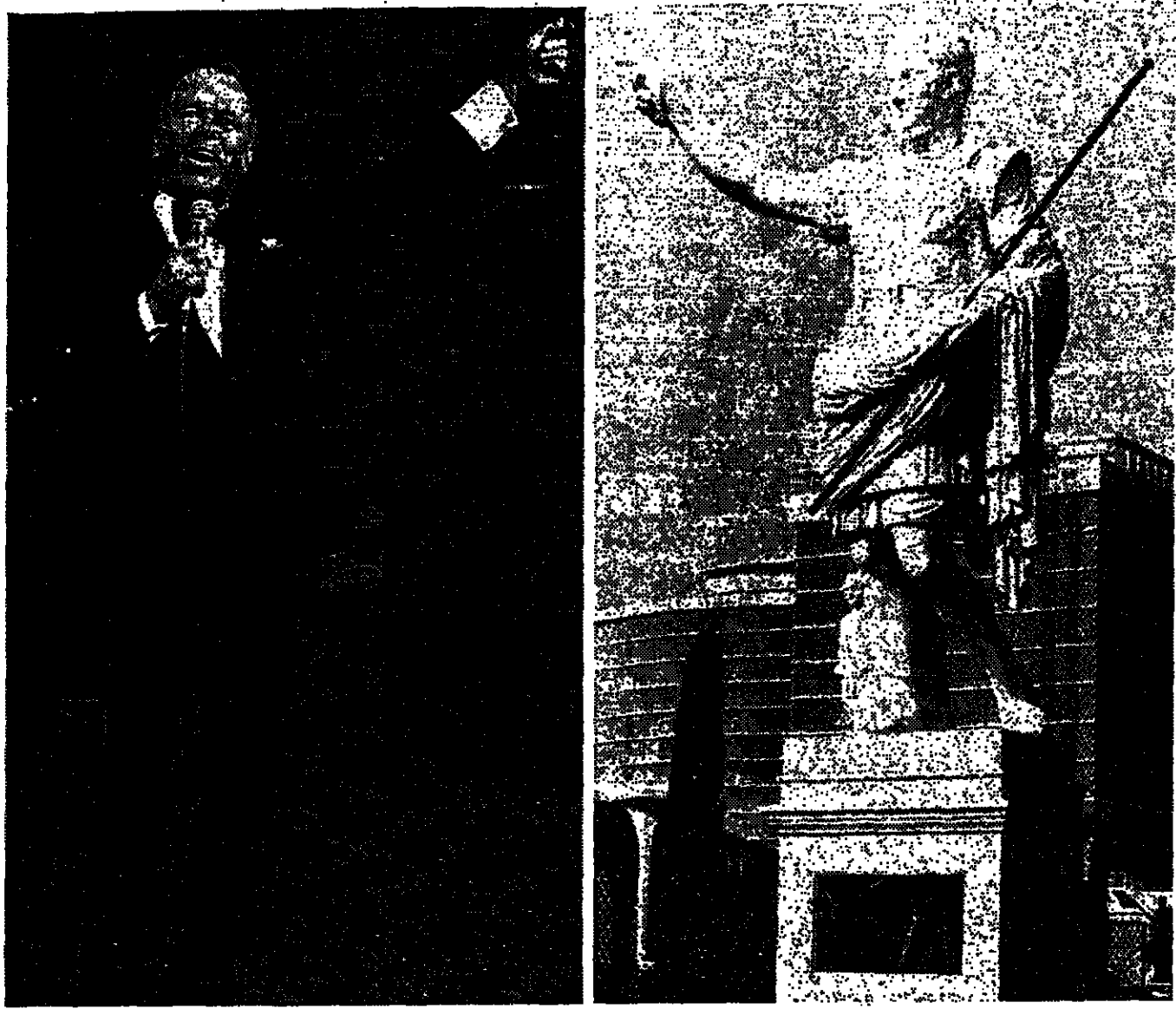
"We want to be the cutting edge of Las Vegas," says Ira Sternberg of the Downtown Progress Association. "The perception of downtown, the old gambling centre, was one of inner-city decay. Transients, people down on their luck. That's all changed."

"We've spent over \$200 million on new construction. We've got 8,000 hotel rooms now. Plus, we've got a civic plaza, convention space, modern means of transportation. Look at other American downtown areas, see the difference. It used to be the famous Las Vegas strip which had all the glamour, he says.

The symbol of this change downtown is the new Golden Nugget. In a move which set computer print-outs on the blink and drew appropietic gasps from the pit bosses all over town, the Golden Nugget removed the gigantic golden advertising sign from its roof, so huge it was visible by daylight to every gambler peering down from the incoming airliners, and junked it. The Golden Nugget, revamped in green and white marble, displays no sign of its name whatever. It looks



Dazzling hand: Las Vegas has even more to offer now than bright lights, Frank Sinatra and attractions like Caesar's Palace



more like an Arabian summer palace than a casino.

"If our customers don't know where they are, we don't want them," said president Steve Wynn with typical bravura. In a town, for all its crescendo style, distinctly short of personalities, Steve Wynn is the man of the moment. As an entrepreneur he is almost as celebrated as his prime cabaret turn, Frank Sinatra, who, indeed, he upstages in rather witty commercials. "Here," says Sinatra, handing Wynn a tip. "Get me some towels". Wynn, who earns well over a million dollars a year, turns to the camera. "Me? Towels?"

You have to be royalty to get an interview with Steve, a veteran poker player confided, so I did not try. Instead, I caught a 90-minute solo performance at the Golden Nugget's annual meeting, and very good value he gave. "This is my eleventh stockholders' meeting," Mr Wynn began. "After six or seven splits, the shares which you could have owned at 12 cents before I took over are now standing at just under \$12."

No arguing with that record. But Mr Wynn warned that it would be difficult to maintain the previous rate of expansion. One problem is Atlantic City, where the supply of gaming facilities has outstripped de-

mand. "We can afford to take a hit and still do good", he said, adding, with an eye to future investment: "We have got lots and lots of money. We don't have to borrow. All we need to do is press a button." But he has been thwarted in his bid to take over the Hilton group. Nor, he says, does he have any plans at present for expanding in London.

One new regulation which is worrying all the big casinos is the recent federal requirement that any cash transaction over \$10,000 must be recorded and reported. The identity of the player changing money has to be verified against his social security number or driving licence. The aim is to prevent "laundering" of banknotes through the casino cashiers - the technique whereby illicit funds, in small denominations acquired through drug dealing or other undercover operations, can be passed at high speed through the casinos for cheques or gaming chips.

In practice, this regulation seems bound to have an inhibiting effect on the "high rollers", the big money players on whom all the major casinos on the strip lean so heavily for their profits. A bet of \$10,000 is nothing special in Las Vegas. But what big-time gambler wants the Federal

Government busying itself with his action at the tables, clean as his own money may be? The casinos say this is the worst aberration of federal enthusiasm and while people will always find ways round regulations, the new rule is, at least, a considerable annoyance.

Just suppose, though, that you do want to bet a million dollars on a single roll of the dice. I asked Jack Binion of the downtown Golden Horseshoe (no limit) how to go about it. "Well, ya give me a call and say you wanna bet a million dollars. I say, 'Fine, come on down,' an when you get along here, an' you got the money, I say, 'go right ahead.' No special ceremony? "No, the pit boss will probably ask is it okay, an' I say, 'Come on out.'"

Not long ago a man did come up to Jack Binion with that sort of proposition. He bet \$777,777 on the dice, the liked sevens that day, and won, and walked away. He came back some time later and had another big roll of the dice, this time for half a million, and lost. Later, sad to relate, he was found dead in a hotel room. "He was a winner. But he'd had a whole bunch of troubles in love", said Binion.

Yes, Las Vegas has regained its confidence. After the slowdown in the national economy a couple of years ago, and the

strike by kitchen staff last year, La Vulgarissima has recaptured its former edge. Vegas casinos reported a 7 per cent increase in their "win" (money bet over money paid out) in the first quarter of 1985, at \$811 million. Gross gaming winnings last year exceeded \$2,000 million.

Atlantic City, in which several corporations have a direct stake, is no rival. It is essentially a day-trip place. Reno, a bit lummier at the fringes, serves the Bay area. Vegas, by contrast, is a destination resort where people stay four or five days, and despite the fall in the pound, it is remarkably good value for British tourists, once you have got there.

Rooms at around \$25 a night are a sixth of the cost in New York or San Francisco. All kinds of meals are on offer at around \$8.12, and of course for gamblers, with a credit line, virtually the whole deal is "comped" (complimentary), which does allow greedy players to recoup at the dining table part of what they lose on the baize.

Another development of note is on Nevada's southern border with Arizona, by Lake Mojave. Laughlin, no more than a rocky gulch in the desert beside the

Colorado river, is the new gambling town, growing like a mining camp in the gold rush. It has just five casinos at present, churning around the clock and doing a huge business. The idea is to catch the tourists from Arizona and the south-west. Relys of flat-bottomed ferries carry visitors merrily over the river, like swarms of summer gnats, drawn to the blazing lights. In another year or two, Laughlin will be a major resort.

The desire to gamble - that is, to take a chance when the odds are against you - shows no sign of diminishing in the 1980s. On the contrary, this age-old human instinct, like hunger, thirst or sex, burns as strongly as ever. Does anyone ever win? The casinos love winners. I was told. Without winners there would be no action. "But just give me one per cent," a veteran manager put it, "and I'll clean out the whole State."

The Marvin Hagler/Tommy Horn world middle-weight contest was a fantastic draw for Las Vegas. The casinos flew in scores of high rollers on junkets. The blood they spilled at the tables made the boxing match look like a tea party. At the other end of the scale, Placido Domingo was also a sell-out. Las Vegas now believes it can hit the market high or low.

Questions of value

Market research is a good thing. Who says so? The public, that's who. Three in four Britons believe it is "a good thing" according to a survey carried out in February by NOP.

That figure is a sharp increase over the 64 per cent who said so in a similar survey in 1981. The main reasons people welcomed market research are related to helping manufacturers to find out what people think or want. The biggest increase in the poll came in the number agreeing that it gives people the chance to voice their opinion.

In 1981 6 per cent thought this to be the case, whereas in this year's poll the proportion rose to 22 per cent. Only one person in 100 believed market research is an invasion of privacy.

Neither trade unions nor companies should be allowed to donate funds to political parties, according to a significant margin of the public in a MORI poll conducted for the Conservative Reform Centre in March. But although 48 per cent said trade unions should not be allowed to donate funds to political parties, 37 per cent disagreed and a majority 51 per cent, thought companies should not be allowed to donate funds to political parties (35 per cent disagreed).

An overwhelming 82 per cent agreed that if companies are allowed to donate to political parties, they should have to consult their shareholders before making such donations. Only 5 per cent disagreed.

Don't say Ms

Three out of four American women prefer to be called Miss or Mrs rather than Ms. So says a survey by the Roper Organisation published in the February/March 1985 edition of Public Opinion Magazine.

When asked what they felt about a move to change the form of address, 66 per cent of American adult women chose to keep things the way they were, with only 21 per cent opting for Ms. Even among the younger section, 18-29 year olds, the majority (56 per cent) said they preferred Miss or Mrs, double the number who would rather have Ms.

Taste is tops

A recently published poll for the Meat and Livestock Executive measured people's attitudes to food, eating and diet, with taste coming top (at 82 per cent) as the most important factor in choosing food. Only 2 per cent said that taste was not important. Value for money (74 per cent) came second as a reason for buying.

Only 12 per cent said that being part of a weight-watching diet was very important in their choice of food. Butter, sugar and salt headed the list of types of foods about which the public recalled hearing negative publicity or

warnings. They were listed as top three foods with the public least of as a result of concern about health. Between one in four and one in five people say that they have cut back on them.

Split decision

The public is evenly split on whether to increase spending on welfare and social security or hold taxes down. A poll conducted in April for The Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants asked people if they would like to see more spent in this way, even if it meant higher taxes or national insurance contributions. Forty-three per cent said "yes", 45 per cent said "no", and 12 per cent gave no opinion.

Of those polled, 27 per cent had received unemployment benefit, 18 per cent supplementary benefit and 17 per cent housing benefit. And 68 per cent believe that everybody who pays National Insurance contributions should be eligible for benefits, regardless of contributions.

What? Who?

The Government should spend more money on scientific research, according to 64 per cent of the public interviewed in a Gallup poll published recently in New Scientist magazine. Only 12 per cent say it should spend less. An overwhelming 84 per cent believe that scientists and technologists should pay more attention to the social implications of their work.

But the "don't know" are the most remarkable section. When asked what was the most important scientific achievement since the war, the main response



Einstein and Curie

was "don't know". That came from 36 per cent of all those approached including 45 per cent of the women. And 56 per cent of women gave the same answer when asked to name three famous scientists, living or dead. Einstein topped the list of those who were named with 28 per cent. Newton followed with 13 per cent and Sir Alexander Fleming (11 per cent), the discoverer of penicillin, was the only other scientist scoring over 10 per cent. Women were less likely than men to pick Einstein (20 per cent to 38 per cent) but more likely to mention Marie Curie (12 per cent to 7 per cent).

Overall, 45 per cent of the public, including 52 per cent of men, believe that science and technology does more good than harm. But 11 per cent think that they do more harm than good.

Robert M. Worcester

The author is Chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork dates and sample sizes are reported in British Public Opinion Newsletter, published by the firm.

COLIN WELCH

In Ghana:

King'sley Martin's bed was positioned diagonally in the middle of the room. Against my advice, he moved it tidily into a corner. That night there was a terrific storm, with rain bouncing six feet and fire-balls hurtling like flaming onions in all directions. King'sley was drenched; before it was moved, his bed had been in the one dry area. Moral for radicals: respect what seems irrational; it may serve some deep but hidden purpose.

MICHAEL HOWARD

on the Star Wars controversy:

The analogy with theology is inescapable: like theologians, nuclear strategists deal with the inherently unverifiable, and it is precisely the unverifiable that evokes the most passionate commitment. And as in theology we shall discover who was right only when it is too late to do anything about it.

FERDINAND MOUNT

eavesdrops at Wimbledon

I don't care how long we have to wait, Fiona, I'm not going back to Bishop's Stortford until I've seen some tennis.

IN THIS WEEK'S SPECTATOR

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GRAHAM GREENE

The return of Mahdism - Sudan's saviour?

Many times in the history of Islam a man has arisen claiming to be the Mahdi - the divinely guided successor of the Prophet Muhammad, who would put an end to tyranny and injustice and restore the supremacy of true Islam. But only one claimant to that title has been recognized in British history textbooks: the Sudanese Mahdi, Muhammad Ahmad ibn Abdullah, who died exactly 100 years ago today, less than five months after his forces had overwhelmed General Gordon in Khartoum.

The Mahdi founded what could be called the first Islamic state of modern times, though the notion of modernity would have had little appeal or even meaning for him. He was also the founder, perhaps without clearly knowing it, of Sudanese nationalism. He roused his countrymen against "the Turks" - that is, the Egyptians who were then ruling Sudan in the name of the Ottoman empire, and whom he denounced as not being true Muslims. (It was the Egyptian

government which appointed Gordon governor-general in 1877; the British Government got involved only later, as an unintended consequence of occupying Egypt in 1882.) The Mahdist state lasted 13 years after its founder's death, under the leadership of his chosen deputy and successor, the Khalifa Abdullahi. It was then crushed by the British under Kitchener. Sudan became an Anglo-Egyptian condominium. The Khalifa and two of the Mahdi's sons were killed and Mahdism appeared to have been completely subdued.

That it survived was almost entirely because of the political astuteness of the Mahdi's son Abdul Rahman, born in June, 1885, a few days after his father's death. He realized that further military resistance to British power would achieve nothing, and therefore set out to re-establish Mahdism on a new basis. He persuaded the Ansar (the Mahdi had named his followers, after the "Companions" of the Prophet) that the jihad or struggle preached



Founders: the Mahdi (left) and his son Abdul Rahman

by the Prophet does not have to take a physical form; it is above all a moral struggle against evil. To gain the freedom to reorganize his followers, Sayyid Abdul Rahman was willing to cooperate with the British. He helped the government suppress a pro-German revolt during the First World War, and was later knighted by King George V. He was also a successful entrepreneur, building up commercial activities to finance his religious and political organization.

Thanks to this shrewdness, Sayyid Abdul Rahman lived to see Sudan regain its independence peacefully in 1956, and had the satisfaction of knowing that he and his followers had played a major role in bringing this about. He had founded Sudan's first political newspaper and its first political party, called simply the Umma - the Arabic word for community, which can mean either the nation or the worldwide community of Believers. During the Second World War he joined the growing demand for self-determination and self-government. Faithful to his father's legacy, he stood firmly for independence from Egypt as well as from Britain.

Sayyid Abdul Rahman died in 1959. He had been wounded resisting the British invader at the age of 13, and he was 70 when the British left. He was



succeeded by his son Siddiq, who survived him by only three years. A troubled decade followed: Siddiq's son Sadiq, whom he had named as his successor, was considered too young by the family and set aside in favour of his uncle Al-Hadi, a deeply religious man and a strong traditionalist, who lacked Abdul Rahman's wisdom in the ways of the modern world.

This led to a split within the Umma party, in which the young Sadiq, who had been educated at Oxford and emphasized the reforming nature of Islam, compatible with democracy and progress, emerged as leader of a radical faction. Sadiq served briefly as prime minister of Sudan during the period of civilian rule which followed the fall of General Abboud's regime in 1964. After the coup which brought Nimeiri to power in 1969, he was arrested and detained without trial.

Nimeiri, initially a left-wing ruler, saw the highly organized religious movement of the Mahdists as a threat to his regime, and in 1970 decided to annihilate it. Egypt's President Nasser supported him and sent aircraft under the command of Husni Mubarak, then commander of the Egyptian air force, to bomb and strafe Aba Island in the White Nile - the main centre of Mahdism, from

which the original Mahdi had launched his movement. Estimates of the number of Mahdists killed vary between 20,000 and 50,000. The Imam Al-Hadi himself, trying to flee to Ethiopia, was caught and murdered. Mahdism was proscribed, suppressed and declared subversive once again, as in the early days of British rule. But it was also reunited in adversity: radicals and traditionalists alike accepted the leadership of Sayyid Sadiq, who was now in exile.

Meanwhile Nimeiri broke with the Communists and moved gradually to the right. His government became increasingly corrupt, inefficient and isolated, and in 1977 he sought a reconciliation with the moderate opposition including the Mahdists. Sayyid Sadiq, though officially under sentence of death, flew to meet him at Port Sudan and reached agreement on "national reconciliation". But Nimeiri failed to honour his promise to liberalize the political system, and the new relationship went sour.

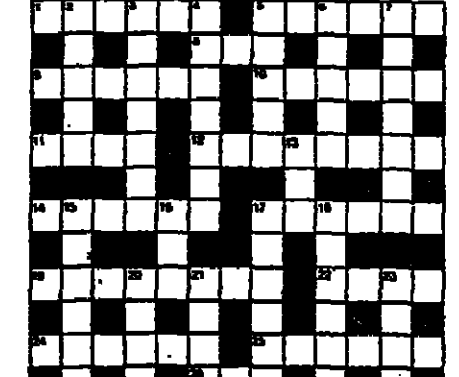
Finally in 1983, when Sadiq publicly repudiated Nimeiri's attempt to give his regime a spurious Islamic legitimacy by reintroducing the "Koran" punishments of flogging and amputation, he was again thrown into prison with scores of his followers and held without trial for 15 months in the notorious Kober jail.

Sadiq was released again last December, as Nimeiri veered back and forth in desperate attempts to prolong his regime. But, unlike the Muslim Brotherhood, which had egged Nimeiri on in his barbaric application of "Sharia" law, the Mahdists emerged from his downfall this April with considerable credit among the public and the other political parties. As Sudan grapples with famine and prepares for elections next spring, Mahdism 100 years after its founder's death, is definitely a political and spiritual force to be reckoned with.

Edward Mortimer and Graham Thomas

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 682)

- ACROSS
1 Shop (4,2)
5 Upright post (6)
8 Every one (3)
9 Forearm flexor (6)
10 Task (6)
11 Nautical mile/hour (4)
12 Daring (6)
14 Ruffie (6)
17 Rot (6)
19 Airship pioneer (6)
22 Spilled club (4)
24 Yellow fish (6)
25 Slanting writing (6)
26 Storage container (3)
27 Ungenerously (6)
28 Forcefulness (6)



- DOWN
2 Conjunction (5)
3 Optelia's brother (7)
4 Inactive (7)
5 Fissure (7)
6 Big (5)
7 Cheddar Hills (7)
13 Fish ovary (3)
15 Fraction (7)
16 Shattered side (3)
17 Offbridges (7)
18 Delve (7)
20 Patternless (5)
21 Set aside (3,2)
23 Church (5)

SOLUTION TO No 681
ACROSS: 8 Sistine Chapel 9 Hie 10 Peninsula 11 Aspen 13 Andante 14 Aimless 19 Barbe 22 Bakshersh 24 Ace 25 Round the clock
DOWN: 1 Iachia 2 Asleep 3 Disperse 4 Hermit 5 Shun 6 Upturn 7 Oreste 12 Ski 14 Dabchick 15 Tab 16 Auburn 17 Make-up 18 Seebe 20 Reason 21 Sneaky 23 Hide

SATURDAY

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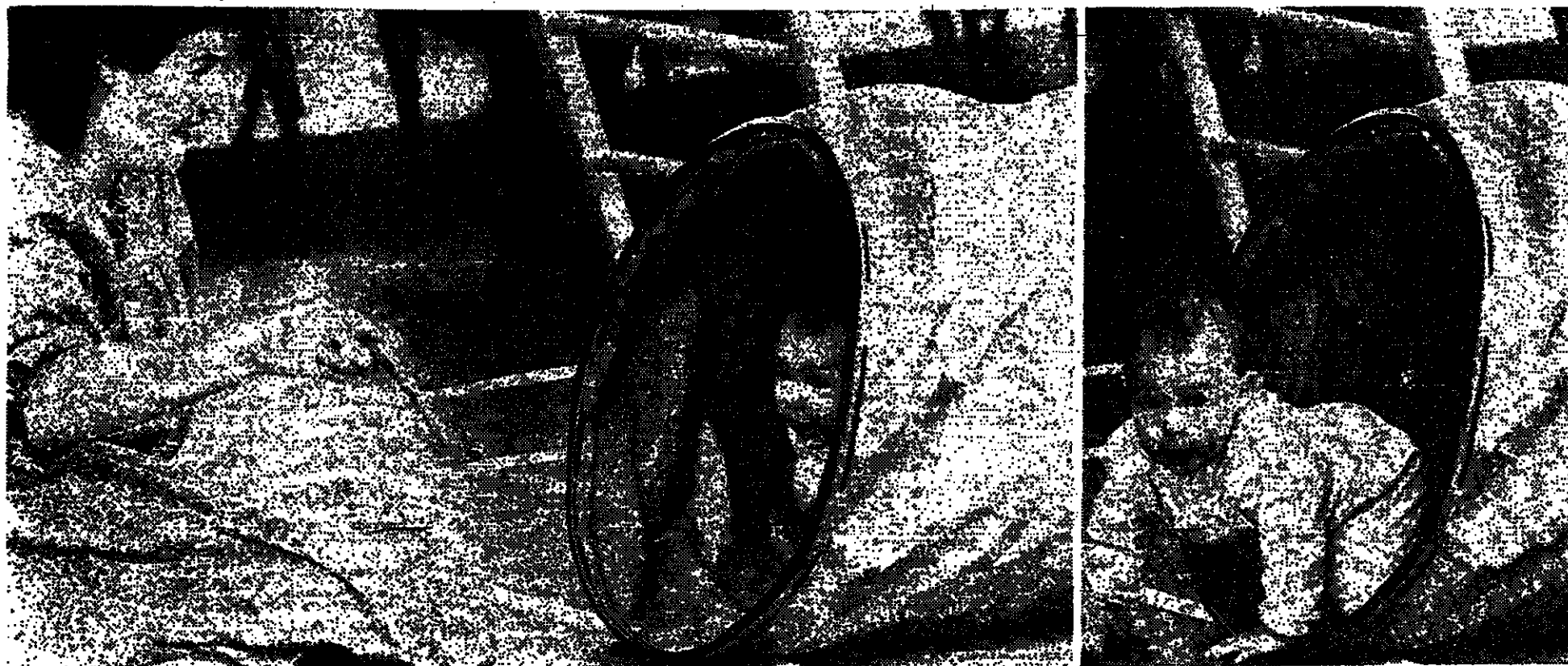
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FRIDAY PAGE

Lee Rodwell admires the adventurous approach adopted by a new style of gym club



Mite at the end of the tunnel: Abigail Shaw, aged 10 months, with her mother Jacqueline at the Tumble Tots club in Hatch End...

Rough and tumble toddlers

Life can be pretty frustrating for the would-be mini gymnast. Mothers, in general, take a dim view of children who trampoline on sofas, slide down banisters or walk along the top of the garden wall. Equipment in playgrounds and parks is often too big or too dangerous for under-fives who want to climb, hang, balance and somersault.

It is for just this reason that Tumble Tots, a nationwide gymnastics club for babies as young as six months, has started. As Bill Cosgrave, a former British Olympics gymnastics coach and technical director of Tumble Tots, explains: "Mothers get very excited when their children take their first steps forward. Then they tend to forget about the physical side of their development. But a child needs to learn how to control its body and it needs the opportunities to do this through play."

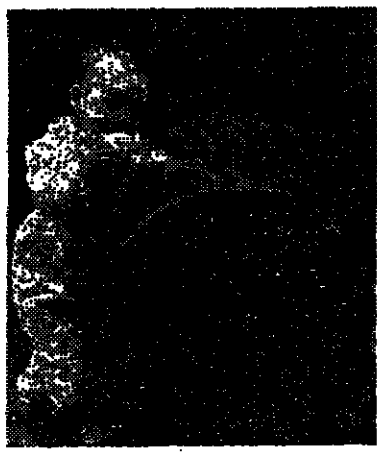
Although play groups and mother-and-toddler clubs usually have some equipment for rough and tumble play - perhaps a slide or a small climbing frame - the apparatus used in Tumble Tots centres has been specially designed and built for young children. There are foam wedges to crawl up, foam barrels to roll on and a tunnel to crawl through. The rungs on the ladders have smaller spaces between them, trestles are easy to climb and rings have smaller diameters for tiny hands. There are stepping stones to

encourage a sense of balance, wobble boards, catwalks and bird beams. Classes last for 40 or 45 minutes - depending on the age of the child - and are run by specially trained teachers. The aim is not to produce future champion gymnasts, nor to instil any element of competition, but to produce children who are "all-rounders".

Pauline Wetton, lecturer in early childhood education at Durham University, says: "At the pre-school stage we are primarily concerned with gross motor development of children. It is through this that children learn both to manage their bodies and exercise their large muscle groups. Eventually children should develop various physical qualities which will enable them to meet the challenges of their environment."

Research has indicated that there is a positive correlation between lack of support for physical activities by parents in the early years and an interest in an active life-style in adulthood. Studies have also shown that physical attractiveness and physical competence are extremely important to young children. Indeed, to be physically competent gives a child status among his peers.

So much for theory - but how does it work in practice? Certainly the idea seems to have been a success. The first Tumble Tots centre opened in September 1983



... and Abigail rolls out the barrel of coloured foam

and there are now more than 70 up and down the country. Tumble Tots Ltd is a subsidiary of Cannons Sports Club (UK) Ltd and is a member of the Jack Ghia Group of Companies. Most of the Tumble Tots clubs are run on a franchise basis.

Annual membership costs £5.75 a year - which includes a comic, T-shirt and badge - plus an average fee of £1.35 a session.

The Tumble Tots club at Hatch End, north London, is held in the local Girl Guide hut and is organized by Karen Fletcher, a former nursery nurse.

Jacqueline Shaw, aged 27, from nearby Stanmore, was pleased with the progress her 10-month-old daughter Abigail had made. She said: "Abigail has become much more adventurous since we've started coming. I've really noticed the difference it has made. With a typical mother-and-toddler club, the mothers tend to natter and not really take much notice of what their babies are up to. But here you are much more involved. You learn how to encourage your child."

Mothers were shown how to help their children crawl up and down brightly coloured wedges of foam; apart from being fun, this is one way of teaching children how to cope safely with slopes in the house or playgrounds. My own 11-month-old son Guy was fascinated by the tunnel - a 4ft long tube of plastic which children crawl through. The idea is to get children used to coping with small, confined spaces and to overcome any doubts about the dark.

The baby class was followed by a class for two to three-year-olds. They started their session with an action song full of stretching and movement and then split into groups to take turns on the various pieces of apparatus. One group walked along a balance beam with a bean bag on their heads, another had fun falling on and off the wobble boards.

My only worry was whether it all was safe. Not so much in the

confines of the club itself, but in the way it might encourage daredevil pre-schoolers to behave elsewhere. He said: "Whenever there are accidents in playgrounds we usually blame the equipment. We need to blame something. But maybe we should ask ourselves if that child had any experience of falling down. Did it know what to do when it fell?"

"Have you ever driven someone else's car and put the windshield wipers on instead of the indicator? It's the kind of mistake you make when what I call your muscle memory comes into action. When it comes to falling, the aim is to give your muscles memory so they know what is going to happen and you know, without thinking about it, how to react."

"That's why we have all those wedges and barrels. We make a game of riding them, rolling off them. And that way we teach children what happens when they fall forwards, backwards, sideways. It gives them body awareness - and that must make life safer for them."

Further information about Tumble Tots can be obtained from Beverley Fletcher, Cannons Sports Club, Cousin Lane, London EC4 (01-621 0904).

Vanity not so fair in the age of arrogance

It's now more than 12 years since the American singer Carly Simon enjoyed considerable success with a ballad called "You're So Vain". You may remember the debate which raged at the time about the possible inspiration for the lyrics. Was it indeed Warren Beatty, or might Mick Jagger better fit the bill?

Nowdays the choice would hardly be so simple. The cult of physical fitness and "self-awareness", the refusal of the middle-aged to pull on their slippers and slide easily towards old age, has unleashed thousands of new narcissists upon the world. Indeed, arrogance has become such an expected characteristic that the word vain now seems positively archaic. Lacking any discriminating power it has been quietly laid aside.

As someone fortunate enough not to suffer from the trait, I've found it necessary to develop techniques for detecting it in others. One give-away sign is an inability to remember faces. Don't be fooled by those who claim that this is some sort of optical aberration. All reasonably sighted people can remember faces equally well, provided they have learnt them in the first place. Unfortunately members of the New Arrogancy never properly consider the precise alignment of anyone else's eyes, nose or mouth - being far too busy at all times with the precise management of their own.

It is also worth watching out for signs of body cultivation. Last July, for example, I developed a friendship with a successful publisher (he specialized in slim volumes of highly refined recipes). Right from the beginning I felt uneasy in his presence. I got a sense that he was always moving slightly, up and down, and occasionally to and fro.

As it turned out, this was not far from the truth. For when, after some hesitation, I privately raised the matter of my friend's incipient palsy with one of his closest female companions, she merely nodded and said, "Isometrics. It will be his isometrics. He read a book on it. Apparently you can exercise every single muscle in your body even when you're just standing or sitting around, by imagining that each one in turn is lifting an imaginary weight."

But on the whole such covert hefting is probably preferable to downright preening. Watch for this particularly when the words "I" or "my" or "me" crop up in conversation. At such moments, it's perfectly natural for the hand to move slightly towards oneself.

But once narcissists have touched their body in this self-referencing way, they become entranced by it: males will often go straight into chest titillation, with the thumb held almost under the armpits and four fingers massaging a nipple. Women are more inclined to make for the back of the neck with fingers moving caressingly along the line of an imaginary necklace. Faces may then

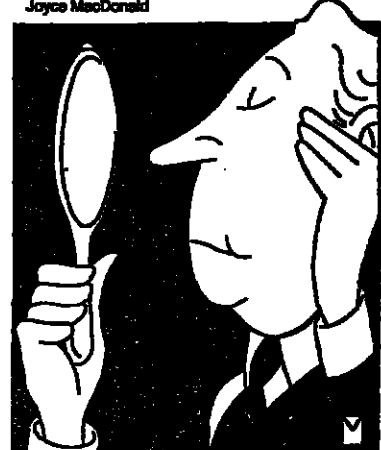
be smoothed and gently stretched or the outline of the eyebrow, or nose traced with one finger, the lips lightly moistened with saliva.

Such antics were of course part of the working day for Hollywood vamps of the 1930s and Rank starlets of the late 1950s, when they were designed to attract the attention and interest of others. In 40 and 50-year-old authors, publishers, executives, lecturers and word processor consultants, they are nothing other than self-regard.

The properly arrogant suffer from a serious philosophical disorder for which there is probably no cure. Like very small children who lose all interest in a toy once it has been removed and placed behind a chair, they assume that anyone who is not standing immediately in front of them and nodding at their jokes, reminiscences and anecdotes has somehow ceased to exist. This egocentrism can be seen in its most pathological form in those who believe that any telephone which they hear ringing in the distance may well be for them, and who, when staying with friends, are surprised to find that newly arrived letters fail to bear their name.

Nothing, I think, better illustrates this attitude than a conversation I held recently with a peculiarly inmodest friend.

Joyce MacDonnell



I was going over to New York for three or four weeks, and although we usually only meet each other once a month to catch up on his news, I thought it polite to telephone and remind him of my imminent departure.

"Hello", I said. "I just thought that I'd ring to say goodbye." There was a moment's silence. I wondered if he'd hung up, or perhaps caught sight of a pleasing reflection of himself. I repeated myself. "I just thought I'd ring up to say goodbye."

"Very kind of you", he said at last. "But quite honestly I don't think I'm going anywhere at the moment."

Laurie Taylor
The author is Professor of Sociology at York University.

Burning issue

This summer may be a wash-out for sun-worshippers but that will not prevent another big rise in the number of diagnosed cases of skin cancer - 99 per cent of which are triggered by sun.

Over the last 20 years the incidence of skin cancer has doubled, largely because of the flood of visitors to the Mediterranean. Celts are among the most vulnerable because they are so fair-skinned. The Glasgow Health Board has responded by launching a campaign to alert people to take notice of any changes in their skin and report them to their doctor. It is advice that everyone should heed.

There are three main types of skin cancer. The first two - rodent ulcers and squamous carcinomas - are mainly found in older people. The third - the

MEDICAL BRIEFING

malignant melanoma - is the most virulent and the one that hits the holidaymaker; it affects in particular office and factory workers who spend most of their time indoors and then cook themselves in three or four short bursts each year.

Malignant melanomas may occur spontaneously or they can develop from existing moles. A spot which never heals properly may be one, while any mole which changes shape or colour or is slightly inflamed, should be checked by a doctor. These are fatal in about 30 per cent of cases.

Cautionary words for asthmatics

The increasing popularity of a piece of equipment for treating asthma at home is worrying experts on chest disease. They fear that sufferers who have purchased the equipment without first taking medical advice may run into problems.

Breakthrough on sex disease

A vaccine against gonorrhoea has been developed by scientists in the United States. Previous attempts were thwarted by the gonorrhoea bacteria's in-built defence mechanism. *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* constantly switches the proteins on its surface to avoid detection and destruction by the victim's immune system.

But now, after a painstaking search, a team at Stanford University in California has identified a protein which does not change and used it as a basis for the vaccine.

In laboratory tests the protein stimulates immunity to the hair-like appendages which the bacteria use to latch on to cells lining the urogenital tract, and so prevents the first stage of infection. The vaccine is expected to go into the final stage of human trials, a volunteer safety studies, within the year.

Dr Gary Schoolnick, assistant professor of medicine at Stanford, says if its early promise holds out the most important application of the vaccine will be in the prevention of female infertility, a major complication of gonorrhoea. In parts of the world where gonorrhoea is epidemic a quarter of women are infertile by the time they reach 25. It also helps other high-risk groups, such as promiscuous men and homosexuals.

An uphill struggle against addiction

People addicted to minor tranquilizers are refusing the chance to kick the habit. Dr Cosmo Hallstrom, who started a clinic at Charing Cross Hospital, London, earlier this year, says that this may be because many people balk when it comes to the crunch of giving them up. They may prefer to stay gently hooked on comparatively low doses of drugs like Valium since the levels tend not to escalate over here.

Dr Hallstrom hopes to work out a scheme that could be applied in general practice, cutting out the need for patients to go to a hospital clinic. Patients at Charing Cross are treated in groups of about six to eight people. They are taken off their drugs slowly, over a four-week period, and simultaneously taught relaxation techniques and helped to cope with problems and anxiety.

Dr Hallstrom is dividing the group randomly into three: some will be given a different drug (more often given to patients with high blood pressure), others will be given a placebo (a non-active sugar pill) and the third group will be given nothing.

"I want to find out which therapy is most useful", says Dr Hallstrom. "The combination of drug replacement and group conversations tackles the complexity of the addiction. Giving patients other drugs works directly on the body, while the group therapy works on the head."

The sweet taste of success

Honey may be the best antidote for babies who have severe diarrhoea, which can be a killer - particularly for children who are malnourished, as the grim tales from Africa have shown. But the deaths are not caused directly by the bacteria which lead to the diarrhoea. It is the massive loss of body fluids and essential sugars and nutrients from the stomach that weakens the children.

A study from Durban, South Africa, published in last week's *British Medical Journal*, has shown that honey is more effective in treating diarrhoea than artificially-created sugar and nutrient solutions. Part of the success is because honey actually kills bacteria; it also contains sodium and potassium, essential minerals for keeping babies alive.

Care must be taken to ensure that the honey solution contains sufficient quantities of these minerals.

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An uphill struggle against addiction

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THE TIMES DIARY

Watch out

It seems a shame to put in on the current bouts of cruise being lavished on the police for outwitting IRA plots, but duty calls. Not so long ago, I am told, the boys in blue ushered into Parliament someone with 50 rounds of .22 ammunition in his pockets and not an alarm rang. My source - an amateur rifleman, not a terrorist - was taking the bullets to Biscay because they were defective and had dropped in to deliver a letter to an MP. It was only after he had passed through the electronic security arch that he realized what he had done. Security men, merely shrugging their shoulders, he says, amazed, he rang Scotland Yard and was eventually phoned back by a chief superintendent who admitted the machine had been switched off because the area was being sprayed for deathwatch beetle and the spraying interfered with the mechanism.

Vigil

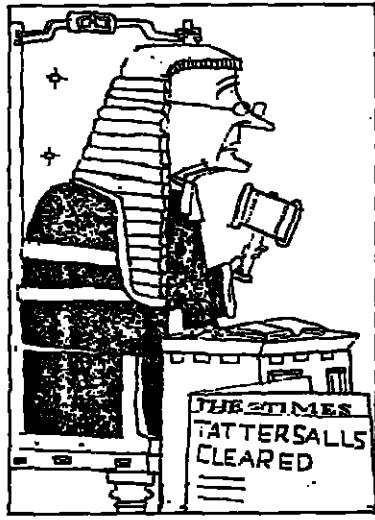
Robert Maxwell's Polish chickens come home to roost on Monday. Enraged by Maxwell's comments that the *Mirror* will be giving less space to Solidarity, supporters of the movement will march from Fleet Street to the paper's Holborn HQ at 11.45 am. Three protesters will be dressed in prison garb to represent the three Solidarity members sentenced in Gdansk two weeks ago. Waving banners reading "Down with Jaruzelski Censorship of the *Mirror*", the demonstrators plan to stay until every journalist has returned from lunch. It could be a long afternoon.

● Cecil Parkinson's rehabilitation continues. He is to be guest of honour at a £6-a-head constituency Conservative association buffet next month. The constituency? Finchley - Mrs Thatcher's own.

Question masters

The electorate of Newham North-west and Leicester East have cost the rest of us dear by returning Tony Banks and Peter Bruinvels respectively to Westminster at the last election. Since June 1983, I learn, Banks has asked no fewer than 1,516 questions of ministers at a cost to the public purse of £63,560, while Bruinvels has asked 954 questions costing £41,012. Only Tam Dalyell (1,173 questions) is (understandably) in the same league, while an influential backbencher, Sir Peter Edward Gardner has made do with a mere 16 questions costing less than £1,000. Bruinvels' productivity is the more remarkable in that he has been running a personal crusade to diminish the £57 million cost of running the Commons. A lot of his questions have been on that very subject, he told me yesterday. He didn't believe he had ever wasted a question, but yes, he was "horrified by the figures."

BARRY FANTONI



'The verdict going once, going twice...'

Pot shot

After the Brussels football tragedy, according to an English-language digest of African news called *Talking Drums*, the Ghanaian leader, Jerry Rawlings, sent a message to the President of Italy condemning hooliganism. Alongside that report is another of two matches played in Ghana to mark the sixth anniversary of Rawlings' accession to power. After the first, Rawlings jumped from the presidential dais and joined the furious wives of the losing team in a pitch invasion. In the second, a game characterized by "indiscipline, rowdiness and violence", Rawlings was a player. He was twice warned for bad tackling, says the report, and for making sure that if he missed the ball he didn't miss the player.

Writs large

David Palmer, chairman of Willis Faber, the multi-million pound Lloyds company which controls syndicate 895, needs a lesson in the art of persuasion. On Tuesday he sent what one recipient described as a "pompous, high-handed, cavalier letter" to the 235 members of the syndicate, who between them have lost more than £18 million. In it he warns of the perils of the names taking legal action against the syndicate's managing agency, the WF subsidiary Spicer White, and said that unless they accept by next Tuesday the offer of a five-year loan of £10 million to help pay their debts, they can expect no more from him. The result? The phones of the solicitors acting for the names "hardly stopped ringing", with clients demanding they issue a writ.

PHS

Making sky high mean safe

Trevor Fishlock previews the emergency meeting of airline security experts on keeping bombers and hijackers at bay

Montreal Twenty-four men who meet in Montreal today face a short but formidable agenda: the TWA hijacking, the destruction of Air-India 182, the explosions at Tokyo and Frankfurt airports. These men, among the world's leading airline security specialists, are meeting in emergency session as pressure mounts to tighten defences.

Security at most major airports is good, stricter measures in recent years have considerably reduced the number of hijackings. But modern air pirates have a keen eye for the hole in the wall and the sleeping security.

The specialists meeting here are the security committee of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which represents 137 airlines. Their confidential recommendations to airlines and governments will call for more rigorous inspection of passengers, baggage and cargo, the installation of more advanced X-ray machines and explosive detectors, as well as stronger airport perimeter defences.

But machines and gadgets are not even the larger part of the answer. Most security experts think that existing equipment is usually adequate. The defence gaps lie in the human element: staff who are bored, poorly trained and carelessly supervised. In some countries security work is low grade, and poorly paid: the result is low-grade security.

Here in Canada some of the staff

of a company contracted by the government to provide security at several airports have complained of poor training and low pay. The government says that what the company pays its workers is not its concern. But surely it is in the end the government's responsibility for security.

Staff and their training were the main weaknesses at Athens airport where the TWA hijackers boarded the plane. IATA had warned Greece that Athens had extremely poor security. Nothing was done. Now training is to be improved.

Usually IATA's strictures are made confidentially to governments and it does not publish a black list of bad security risks because that would tell the terrorists where best to board the planes. But pilots and other professionals know that security is good in London, most of Western Europe, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, the Soviet Union and North America; but that it is less stringent in parts of South America and Africa. IATA says about half a dozen airports are "of serious concern".

The committee will also consider the pressures on security workers which can open up gaps for hijackers. Airlines dislike delays as much as passengers - and security

men can feel pressure to take short cuts and chances. For example, metal detector gates can be adjusted so that they do not ring an alarm for every pen, clip, zip and bunch of keys. But that means a weapon could also get through. A body search is the only way to be certain.

More airports will undertake X-raying of checked-in baggage. Canada this week ordered 20 new X-ray machines. More airports are likely to invest in gamma-ray machines, a sort of super X-ray which can detect explosives that ordinary machines might miss.

Another potential loophole is the numerous people who have access to aircraft - the little-noticed cleaners, maintenance men and caterers - who may be in a position to smuggle guns and plant explosives. There will certainly be demands for tighter security in this area.

Security has to be geared to the perceived threat and need not be uniformly tight throughout the world. It can be argued that not every airport needs to be a fortress like Tokyo Narita. Not every airline needs to be as rigorous in its searches as El Al. But because of recent events, and public demands that something be done, IATA's security committee is in a strong

position to make tough recommendations, and the airlines will be ready to comply.

IATA has no power to make any government improve airport security, and its inspection teams need the co-operation of airport authorities. But one effect of the TWA hijacking following IATA's unheeded warning about Athens is that IATA's security proposals are likely to carry more weight.

The security watchdog role has become increasingly important for IATA in recent years. Since deregulation, the organization has gradually modified its public image as the fare-fixing cartel of major airlines. Its other functions, covering technical services for airlines, airport design, law, political relationships and its ticket clearing house, have become better known.

But it is the hijacker and the saboteur who today bring IATA more into the public eye. IATA points out that while there is room for improvement in security, terrorists would have a harder time if countries stuck to their obligations under the various treaties, which lay down that hijackers should never be given safe haven or resources and should be extradited to stand trial.

Sadly, the Air India blast has strained relations between the Sikhs and Hindus who emigrated to Canada during the last twenty years or so. Many people in both communities have spoken of the futility of bringing prejudices to a land where they started a new life.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

A genius? I say rotten

Ever since the Fall, there has been in the world a vast quantity of cruelty, hate, pain and fear. It is likely that that state of affairs will continue to the end of time itself. On a less abstract level, the world at any moment contains ample reserves of excitement, vomit and spilt blood. Meanwhile, defecity and madness seem to be forever ineradicable.

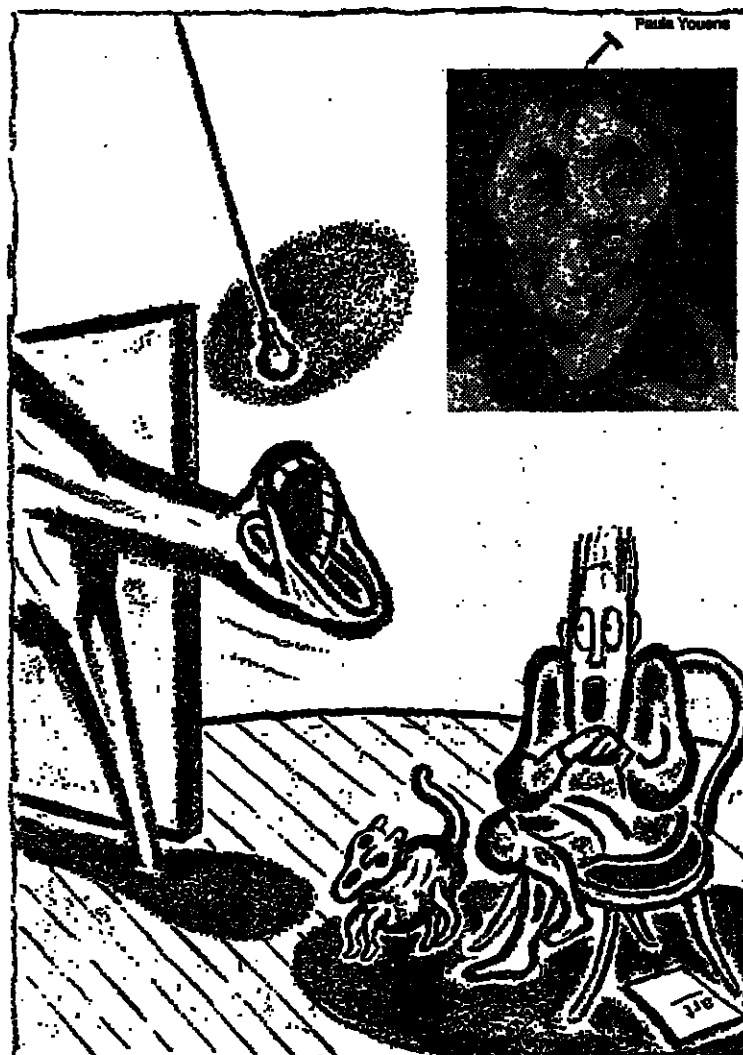
No one, I think, will dispute those claims; most of us, however, would say that they were not worth making because they are so obviously true, just as no one goes about insisting that the sun is hot and the moon cold, though no one would challenge such assertions.

But now let us make it, ostensibly at any rate, more difficult. Suppose there was a man of enormous gifts, penetrating vision and ruthless single-mindedness of purpose who had conceived his role as saying, day in and day out and with overwhelming force and conviction, that the night is usually dark, and certainly darker than the day, that to be tortured is almost always a very unpleasant experience, and that sometimes a small child plucking a flower is bitten by a poisonous snake and subsequently dies in agony. Now let us take a vote: are these things more worth saying (taking into account that they are said very forcefully) and with a wealth of expression) than my own list? Those who say yes should hasten to the Tate Gallery for the Francis Bacon exhibition; those who say no should not trouble themselves to do so.

The puffing and booming of Francis Bacon seems to me one of the silliest aberrations even of our exceptionally silly time. Here, summing up the silliness, is the director of the Tate, Mr Alan Bowness, in his foreword to the catalogue (a particularly sumptuous catalogue, incidentally, with every picture reproduced in colour):

"His own work sets the standard for our time, for he is surely the greatest living painter; no artist in our century has presented the human predicament with such insight and feeling. The paintings have the inescapable mark of the present; I am tempted to add the word alas, but for Bacon the virtues of truth and honesty transcend the tawdry. They give to his paintings a terrible beauty that has placed them among the most memorable images in the entire history of art. And these paintings, by a timeless quality that allows them to hang naturally in our museums beside those of Rembrandt and Van Gogh..."

"The greatest living painter; no artist in our century..." Let us leave the living painter theme; the world is not exactly awash with genius in painting at the moment, and anyway we do not want to get into an argument about the precise meaning of "greatest". But no artist in our century has presented the human predicament with such insight and feeling? Here is a short list of artists in our century (taking that to mean artists who did at least a significant proportion of their work after 1900) whose insight and feeling in understanding and presenting the human predicament are



manifestly greater than Bacon's - manifestly, at any rate, to anyone less silly, than the director of the Tate and his less witty colleagues.

Bonnard, Braque, Chagall, Chirico, Derain, Ernst, Gris, Grosz, Kandinsky, Kokoschka, Magritte, Matisse, Matta, Miró, Moore, Munch, Picasso, Rivera, Rouault, Soutine, Sutherland, Utrillo, Vlaminck and Vuillard.

Note that I have been strict with the definition. The slightest stretching of "human predicament" would have enabled me to add Arp, Dufy, Klee, Leger and Mondrian, and a slightly more generous treatment of dates would have brought in Degas, Monet and Renoir (who, after all, lived to 1917, 1926 and 1919 respectively). Nor have I seized on Mr Bowness's distinction between "painter" (Bacon the greatest living) and "artist" (Bacon unrivalled at presenting the human predicament); if I had added the sculptors the list would have swollen substantially.

My objection to Bacon is the same as my objection to those clever young playwrights who finally drove me to give up the job of a dramatic critic: what is the point of being good at saying things if you have nothing to say - or at least, nothing other than that the world is rotten, human beings are rotten, love is rotten, society is rotten, life itself is rotten? In the first place, the claim is

obviously untrue; in the second, it runs counter to some 30 centuries of human experience distilled in art - 30 centuries, moreover, in which the world was by no means free, any more than it is today, of envy, hatred, malice and all uncharitableness, nor of battle, murder and sudden death, nor of war, famine and pestilence.

Wandering through the huge Tate exhibition, I looked for evidence that Bacon had ever read *A Winter's Tale*, listened to the *G minor* symphony of Mozart, seen *A Nous la Liberté*. There is no such sign. But there is much else.

There is a baboon, also a chimpanzee, both are screaming, as are a very large proportion of the human beings, man and animal - not to be distinguished, anyway - trapped alike in endless torment. (There is a dog which is not screaming; it is, however, tugging at its lead because it wishes to inspect a drain it is passing.) There are those endless deformations of faces and bodies which are this artist's most intense obsessions, and which suggest a degree of misanthropy verging on madness. There are the Velasquez variations, those Bacon Popes burning in their own hell (I wonder what Velasquez would think of Bacon - for that matter, I wonder what Bacon thinks of Velasquez; if indeed he ever thinks about Velasquez at all), and there is

another parody of a well-known work, which seems to me very significant.

It is based on the Ingres painting of *Oedipus and the Sphinx* in the Louvre. Bacon has imitated the pose of Oedipus with one leg raised on a rock, but Bacon's Oedipus is a simian figure, and the raised foot is covered in a filthy and bloodstained bandage. There is an indefinable figure in the background, part bat, part jellyfish, part bird; it, too, is bloodstained. An essay in the catalogue says that Bacon sees the creature as one of the Eumenides; if so, he must have forgotten how the *Oresteia* ends: in Bacon's mythology there is neither Apollo to plead for the sinner nor Athena to win over the Furies.

Bodies couple, in hate not love; other bodies writhe on beds, one of them swelling with the effects of the hypodermic embedded in its arm; naked men squat at stool; carcasses of beef hint at human carcasses; "Reclining Woman" reclines, significantly, more hanging than lying; "Woman Emptying a Bowl of Water" is accompanied by "Paralytic Child on All Fours"; Disgust is kept at bay by the feeling that there is nothing sufficiently real in all this waste and folly to make disgust an appropriate reaction.

Bacon is not a charlatan; he feels everything he expresses. Nor has he invented or imagined the darkness in man's soul; Auschwitz and Kolyma are not fairy-tales, nor is the Crucifixion. But Bacon's version of the latter illustrates perfectly the fatuousness of Bacon's claim that Bacon would "hang naturally in our museums beside those of Rembrandt and Van Gogh".

What is the second most noticeable, striking and important fact about the Crucifixion? That it is a story of shame, degradation, failure and death. What is the most noticeable, striking and important fact about it? That it is a story of shame put to shame, degradation raised incorruptible, failure turned eventually to a breakthrough in the communist party if Portugal remained cut off, with no sense of purpose and no prospects of change or improvement.

The Portuguese communist party at present, unlike the Spanish CP, lacks dynamism. It is old fashioned, pro-Moscow and led by elderly hard-liners. No whiff of Euro-communism there. But it has a solid 20 per cent of the vote and if it should some time adopt a more attractive

David Watt

One more for the shelter

The EEC summit starting in Milan today has brought the Community into one of its rare moments of sharp focus in this country. The commentators and at least some politicians have been able for an instant to look beyond the old arguments about the British budget contribution and see in the issues that have surfaced the interests that make our membership not only desirable but inevitable - the need to find some combination against American and Japanese economic hegemony, to reduce a sense of helpless political isolation, to head off German neutralism and hedge against American unilateralism.

Any honest observer (and I write as an unwavering pro-Marketec of 25 years' standing) is bound to admit that the British public has never been seriously enthusiastic about the EEC, in fact there has been, and still is, a constant sense of irritation and unease about the Community's manners and pretensions. On the other hand there has been, and remains, a sense that there is no better hole to go to. This grudging, though growing, consensus has often been denounced by our continental partners as miserably negative, and often it has cast a real blight over the Community's future. But its characteristically stumpy pragmatism has some durable virtues now coming into their own while the idealists are in disarray. The British can be relied on to exert their native ingenuity to make the minimum extent required to make the hole habitable, and as far as possible, shell-proof, even if it means sharing it with others.

It is interesting to put this British mood alongside that of Portugal, which I have just been visiting in the dawn of its accession to the Community. Portugal is joining the EEC for many of the same broad political and psychological reasons that Britain did. The Portuguese have for centuries looked to the Atlantic and to their overseas possessions, turning their back firmly on Spain and the rest of the continent. They joined Nato from its inception principally to counter-balance Spain by means of the US connection. But this was no longer enough to compensate for the acute sense of isolation that overcame them once their empire crumbled 10 years ago.

There were two other important reasons for their application. One was the fact that 750,000 Portuguese are now working in other EEC countries; their situation, extremely useful to the Portuguese economy since they send a fair proportion of their earnings home, had become increasingly vulnerable in the present economic climate without the protection of EEC rules.

The other, more important, factor was domestic politics. The Portuguese ruling middle class feared that the economic and political tensions of the post-colonial era might lead eventually to a breakthrough in the communist party if Portugal remained cut off, with no sense of purpose and no prospects of change or improvement.

The Portuguese communist party at present, unlike the Spanish CP, lacks dynamism. It is old fashioned, pro-Moscow and led by elderly hard-liners. No whiff of Euro-communism there. But it has a solid 20 per cent of the vote and if it should some time adopt a more attractive

guise, it could become as troublesome as its Spanish counterpart.

The big question, of course, is whether the long-term economic cost of these political advantages will be so great that they will actually bring about the same revolutionary result by another route. If social strains imposed by EEC membership turn out to be too great, the political impact could be devastating. Both sides in the negotiations for Portuguese entry have been conscious of this danger, which is why Portugal has been granted a long transitional period on terms, in many respects, more generous than those given to Spain. But the problems are horrendous, and the fears that the Portuguese economy will simply be broken on the EEC wheel are quite genuine.

A certain victim of membership will be the Portuguese peasant farmer. At present 30 per cent of the Portuguese population work on the land - mainly on small parcels of poor land, at that. In 10 years, Portugal will probably be less than 10 per cent. In other words, one in five Portuguese is going to be uprooted by competition from the more efficient agriculture of France, West Germany and northern Europe, and unless work can be found in new industries they will presumably trek to the slums of Lisbon and Oporto or emigrate.

Where are these jobs to come from? The optimists answer: from tourism, from the kind of light industry (shoes, textiles, car and domestic appliance components, and so forth) that will benefit from low wage costs, and from greatly expanded exploitation of Portuguese natural resources, such as fish, minerals and wood pulp. The pessimists reply that this kind of activity will not prevent massive political disillusionment and discontent. They fear, as the opponents of British entry feared, that the country will be increasingly doomed to "fringe" status as capital flies out and more efficiently produced imports flow in, especially from the ancient enemy, Spain.

This argument has a familiar ring to the British visitor. Free market economists argue, no doubt with every theoretical justification, that the Portuguese will survive because, in the long run, the exchange rate and wage costs will fall to a natural level low enough to attract foreign investment and stimulate exports. Emigration and the brain drain can also be seen as a kind of market mechanism on an international scale, ensuring that labour goes where it can most profitably be used. Nationalists, conservative paternalists and the left retort that the idea of a "nation" as ancient, and distinct as Portugal cannot - and will not - be placed at the mercy of such violent and psychologically disruptive change. If the experiment goes wrong, they say, there will be an isolationist revolution or a revolution - or both.

One does not have to be more than a few hours in Lisbon to realize that the Portuguese have not really grasped the enormous effort that will be required to prevent this happening - any more than the rest of the Community have really come to terms with the size of the economic support required for the same purpose. What is driving the Portuguese into Europe, and rightly, is something much more fundamental - the realization that they too have no better hole to go to.

moreover... Miles Kington

Viols the word, vile's the sound

"People didn't know what authentic classical music sounded like till I came along," says Basil Chalumeau, director of the Eighteenth Century Players. "The other so-called authentic groups have been sucking around with the correct instruments and the correct arrangements - only I have got the correct players!"

Basil's researches have proved that the average musician, 200 years ago, was badly paid, badly housed and often badly out of tune. He points out that today's authentic orchestras are full of highly trained and dedicated players, which goes right against the grain of the truly authentic performance.

"What's the point of getting up in public with eighteenth century instruments if you then give a polished twentieth century performance? Those blokes in the 1780s weren't skilled musicians, they were dunderheads employed because the orchestras couldn't get anyone better. I think you could say that over half the musicians in my group are dunderheads. Great dunderheads, some."

To make sure that his versions of the classics sound just as Haydn or Handel heard them, Basil makes sure that nothing is properly rehearsed. The orchestra of the time often didn't have the opportunity or incentive to get together very often before the concert, and that's the way Basil does things too.

"Some of them come to me some time and say, 'Can't we put in a few extra sessions and iron out the bad patches, or at least get rid of some intonation troubles?' I say to them: 'You want to play in a smooth anonymous modern group, you go join a smooth anonymous group. Don't let me catch you soaking extra practice round here.'"

His policy certainly seems to have paid off. The Eighteenth Century Players are much in demand for private parties, river sessions and firework displays, and the ill-kempt, badly uniformed figures of the musicians are becoming familiar in all sorts of musical venues. What delights Basil especially is that audiences often behave like eighteenth century audiences.

"Well, they don't listen much, for example. They chatter a lot. That's very authentic. Also, when they do listen, they clap in the wrong places. Let people clap as much as they want to. Also dance. In Haydn's day they got up and did the minuet when his symphony had a minuet. My audiences have started doing that as well. Great!"

Recently Basil staged what is thought to be the first authentic version of Haydn's *Miracle Symphony* since its original performance in London, when a chandelier fell down on the auditorium. The miracle was that the listeners had crowded forward to hear the band, and it fell into an empty space. Basil, too, arranged for a huge chandelier to descend from the ceiling; the timing was unfortunately awry, and several people were hurt. "Some you win, some you lose," he says.

Was it not unfortunate that the chandelier should have fallen on the orchestra? "Look," says Basil, "they know the kind of risks they run when they join my group. Eighteenth century players were always being drowned, or being struck by lightning, or having their stage coaches overturned, or being stranded by Napoleonic campaigns. These boys have got it easy."

But it does seem odd that the orchestra has not yet attracted the attention of the Musicians' Union, which normally demands minimum wages and good conditions.

"Don't talk to me about the Musicians' Union," says Basil angrily. "Was there a union in 1785? Did they demand extra money for portage and playing after dark? Would it be authentic if I let them be members of a union? Don't talk such rubbish. My guys are used to fighting for their living. Usually against me, actually."

As I left, Basil was using a rolled up manuscript to belabour a charmerist who had had the temerity to ask for a pay rise. The man's devotion to vintage music-making is hard to fault at any level.

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In the melting pot - 21 Tory seats

As if George Younger's cup of political difficulties was not already overflowing with rebellious Edinburgh councillors and irritated Scottish teachers, Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, has compounded the flood by disclosing that the future of the Ravensraig steel plant in Lanarkshire was "under discussion" with the Government.

The Secretary of State for Scotland is again seeing the majorities of 21 bruised and perturbed Tory MPs in Scotland under threat. However justifiable the broad rationalization (and this is doubted in Scotland, where any reduction in steel-making capacity is widely seen as a sop to the EEC), the result of closing Ravensraig would be dire to a region that has already suffered huge cuts in its labour intensive industries.

It now looks as if a campaign to persuade BSC to invest £90 million in new equipment at Ravensraig could become a campaign to prevent the entire steel works and 4,000 jobs being lost. Younger is familiar with this particular barricade. He was last there in 1982 when BSC sought to

close the plant, citing poor productivity as a main reason. Younger threatened to resign over the issue and the corporation backed down.

The Ravensraig workers now feel they have fashioned an argument of stainless quality. In the past month alone they have broken seven production records and their product is of such high quality that Ravensraig steel, it is said, is specifically requested by some major customers. Even more potent in political terms is the refusal of the Ravensraig workers during the coal strike to go along with NUM demands - accompanied by picket violence - to cut production.

Many Tory backbenchers believe that to reward the Ravensraig men for their hard work and loyalty with the dole would be, as one put it, to shoot a hole in the Conservative party's foot.

Suspensions have been further roused, and the pressure on Younger increased, by the confident assurance by the Secretary for Wales, Nicholas Edwards, of the future security of Lanvern, the popular alternative to Ravensraig as a sacrifice to streamline capacity.

Since £180 million has been spent on Port Talbot, and since the Welsh plants are easier to supply and closer to their markets than Ravensraig, the cold accountability logic is that they are the ones that should be retained. Another factor weighing against Ravensraig is the flooding and closure of Polkmet colliery in East Lothian, which supplied it with its coking coal, during the miners' strike.

The Scottish Council for Development and Industry, however, has presented the Industry Minister, Norman Lamont, with a bipartisan case for developing the plant. Younger's attitude so far has been to call for patience until the steel industry's review is published. No one doubts his willingness to fight the closure, should it be called for, in Cabinet and in the Commons; but favours nipping any closure intentions in the bud, remembering perhaps what such resistance achieved in the recent row over rate increases in Scotland.

Beyond this, political observers wonder what will happen if Younger

is promoted out of the looming battle and replaced by someone who does not share his view that steel making is essential to the Scottish economy and that Ravensraig is essential to Scottish steel.

One answer to the dilemma would be to develop Hunterston on the Clyde, where £60 million of steel plant has lain mothballed for six years. Some politicians are attracted by the idea of an ultra-modern steel making complex there producing a high value specialist product from electric arc furnaces. This scheme would require probably as much investment as the new coke ovens for Ravensraig, but the crucial differences between the alternatives is that the Hunterston plant would provide only about 800 jobs.

The impact of 3,000 or more direct redundancies at Ravensraig and the severe knock-on effect it would have on Lanarkshire in economic and political reasons Younger and his Scottish colleagues are profoundly anxious to avoid.

Ronald Faux



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

ON TICK AND IN THE DARK

A new, and most severe, test of the skill and authority of the Bank of England is emerging through the cracks in Britain's monetary policy.

widespread opportunity for borrowing cheap in order to build up financial assets, particularly through the tax-advantaged pensions industry.

interest rates rising even higher than they are today, the Bank of England has to pump money out again to discount houses and banks, thus laying it open to the twin charges of statistical fiddling and market manipulation.

Within these imperfect political constraints, however, it is the Bank's job to interpret those conditions. For the least sophisticated observer can see the danger of a credit boom.

To what extent is the recent credit surge the natural concomitant of accelerating investment and output growth, and to what extent is it a harbinger of inflation? We are entitled to look for an answer in yesterday's quarterly bulletin from the Bank of England, which it does not quite provide.

The Bank has for some time been puzzled by the growth in industrial bank borrowing. There are a host of possible short-term explanations offered by the quarterly bulletin.

A LESSON IN FREEDOM

Mr Nabih Berri, as much of the world now knows, is Lebanon's "Minister of Justice". Appropriately enough for that office, he has a legal training, acquired mainly in France.

Prevention of Terrorism Act in this country, without (or more often before) charging them with a specific crime.

hostages. But he did threaten to return them to the original hijackers if his demands were not met, which came to much the same thing.

The kidnapping and detention of people against their will is a crime, in France as in England, and no doubt was also in Lebanon when there was still some semblance of law in that country.

Mr Berri, however, appears to think, in what may be a misinterpretation of French legal doctrine, that the character of an action changes with the identity of the person committing it.

From the moment they set foot in any Western embassy, it would be morally, politically and legally impossible for the state to which that embassy belonged to treat them as anything other than free men.

BEYOND THE HONEYFORD AFFAIR

It is time some consideration was given to the missing element in the Honeyford affair - the pupils and prospects of Drummond Middle School.

work depends on the judgement of a Bradford education officer who, it must be hoped, will have the strength of character and professional nous to make a decision without mentally making obeisance to the noisy councillors who stand above him.

co-operation with head and teachers. In the past decade governors have been reviewed and re-reviewed. We are no nearer a charter for their conduct as an effective lay voice in school government.

Mr Honeyford's observance of bureaucratic guidelines on multi-ethnic provision should never have been made a cause; nor his extra curricular writings, whatever the imprint they appeared under.

Another lesson concerns the danger of apathy. A group of parents claims to speak for all parents. Self-appointed "community leaders" claim to speak for all Bradford citizens of Asian descent or, worse, all non-whites.

Another lesson is, however objectionable some found Mr Honeyford's phraseology, that there are questions both of practice and philosophy in the education of Britain's Asians and non-whites that will not disappear.

40 years of family money

From the President and the Immediate Past President of the Women's Liberal Federation

consideration which also played a part in the decision to end child tax allowances and concentrate help for children in one measure, child benefit.

vision, while the father receives the compensation. The Women's Liberal Federation joins other women's organizations in protesting against these retrograde proposals as well as the recently announced cut in the real value of child benefit.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A hard look at universities

From Professor Robin Marris Sir, In The Times of June 17, without giving chapter and verse, Lord Caldecote makes the extremely serious accusation that "some universities... have abused the privilege of academic freedom by refusing to give priority to the expansion of engineering and science faculties, and so failing to respond effectively to the country's changing needs."

Table with 2 columns: Country, Percentage of total first-degree-level graduates in Engineering and Science & Technology

The comparisons of the UK with other countries produce similar conclusions. We have the highest percentage of science and engineering graduates for all the countries for which the DoE gives statistics.

After adjusting for the fact that the UK produces fewer total graduates relative to population than the US or Japan, it appears our production of graduate engineers is about the same relative to population as that of our main competitors.

From Mr C. U. M. Smith Sir, Plus ca change, plus c'est la même chose. Sir Keith Joseph and his advisers have been accused of introducing a "new barbarism".

From Mr Maurice Smelt Sir, At present aircraft piracy is being discussed as if the only way to solve the problem is to stop the gunmen getting on board with their arms.

From Miss Iris Murdoch and others Sir, Three Solidarity leaders released in last year's amnesty have been imprisoned again after a patently unfair trial in Gdansk.

From Mr L. A. Partridge Sir, If we go on as at present we shall end up with a deprived third of the population looking on enviously at an affluent two thirds and being told they may not share in all this wealth for fear of damaging the mechanism which created it.

Solidarity detainees

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Deprived minority

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A silver lining

From Mr J. Ivelaw-Chapman Sir, I have followed the unpectacular daily fluctuations of the "small silver" market as they are faithfully recorded in your newspaper for more than two years.

Safeguards against hijacking

From Mr Peter Martin Sir, Mr Barnes's letter (June 27) recommending the setting up of an international criminal court of justice is a step back in history.

Following the assassination of King Alexander I of Yugoslavia at Marseilles on October 9, 1934, the French Government submitted to the Council of the League of Nations a memorandum on bases for an agreement with a view to the suppression of terrorism.

As a result, the League of Nations promoted the 1937 Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism and the 1937 Convention for the Creation of an International Criminal Court.

The simple truth, which has been the same always, is that the rule of law is effectively impotent in the face of power politics - at whatever low a level those power politics are deployed.

From Mr Martin H. Prescott Sir, I understand that two thirds of the surface of the globe is covered with water.

From Mr James Rusbridger Sir, Salvage of the Air India Boeing from 6,000ft is not unprecedented. In 1974 the Central Intelligence Agency, using the salvage vessel Glomar Explorer, successfully recovered most of a Russian Golf Class submarine from the floor of the Pacific Ocean at a depth of about 12,000 ft.

From Mr Gerald Frost Sir, The assurance from Peter van Dungen (June 20) that Bradford School of Peace Studies maintains a fair and balanced academic approach would carry conviction if there was some indication of balance in the school's publications and of diversity of opinion among its staff.

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Strasbourg law

From Professor Graham Zellik Sir, Least fear should be stalking the land as a result, not of the terrorist's bomb, but of the Pledge's statement (June 24) that Magna Carta was repealed in 1969.

Natural pain killers

From Dr C. A. Hendrie Sir, With reference to the Science Report of June 18, perhaps not unnaturally the Science Editor has assumed the researchers responsible for the discovery of one form of the body's own morphine-like substances (the enkephalins) to be American.

airport which it is approaching must clear the skies for it. The radio is either disabled by a special key which the pilot alone possesses, or - if he is held at gunpoint, threatened with death, and then obliged to report the hijack by radio - by an external signal from the ground or from another British Airways aircraft.

The aircraft lands somewhere, taxis to a remote part of the runway, and nobody comes near it. Its occupants will realise they have no choice but to walk out peacefully together - hijackers and ordinary citizens alike.

From Mr Ray Ward Sir, Peter Koutoupoulos (June 24) is confusing two different things - or is hoping that others will confuse them.

From Mr Martin H. Prescott Sir, I understand that two thirds of the surface of the globe is covered with water. So a large number of aircraft accidents must end in the sea. Is it not astonishing, Sir, that no one has developed a black box that floats?

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ON THIS DAY

JUNE 28 1893

On June 22 1893 the Mediterranean Fleet under its commander Vice-Admiral Sir George Tryon was disposed in two divisions line ahead off Tripoli, the C-in-C, in his flagship Victoria leading one, Rear-Admiral Sir Albert Markham in Camperdown, the other. The columns were six cables (1,200 yards) apart. The C-in-C signalled to invert the course of the columns towards it. It was pointed out that in this manoeuvre the distance between the columns should be eight cables (1,600 yards). The C-in-C confirmed: "Keep the six cables up". The turn was made with disastrous results. Camperdown struck Victoria and in 10 minutes the latter sank. The admiral and 358 of the crew lost their lives.

THE LOSS OF H.M.S. VICTORIA.

PORT SAID, JUNE 27. One of the officers from the Barham, which arrived here yesterday, has given the following particulars of the Victoria disaster. He was on the deck of the Barham at the time of the collision:

The cruiser Barham was a short distance from the Victoria when the accident occurred, and I was standing well forward with a glass in my hand at the moment. The evolutions of the fleet had been going on for some time and had been up to that instant successfully and brilliantly conducted. The prisoner manoeuvre had been done, and was being repeated at the time that my attention was centred on the double line of vessels.

Pilots' black lists of airports are concerned with safety - the prevention of accidents rather than deliberate acts. They are based on such matters as landing aids, lighting, radar, the efficiency of traffic control, etc.

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Deus ex machina? From Lord Beswick Sir, Some weeks ago, as representatives of Wimbledon's amenity society, five of us were kindly welcomed by the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club to discuss our criticisms that the steady development of the club as a commercial complex was increasingly detrimental to local residential interests and convenience.

ELIAS SARKIS
 er President of
 Lebanon



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Strong arm of the new PC

If the estimated level of demand for IBM's advanced PC/AT is anything to go by, many micro-computer users are looking for more power and facilities. Even with the availability of AT clones, demand is still expected to outstrip supply for the rest of 1985.

By that time IBM is widely expected to have launched its PC2 product, replacing the old PC with a more powerful system based on the same micro-processor chip as used in the AT.

IBM and the makers of the PC clones, are selling basic PCs in large numbers. For many uses a simple PC with 256 kilobytes of main memory and two floppy disc drives is perfectly adequate for most current applications. But with the integrated suites of applications currently under development and in a few cases already available the new generation of PCs with hard discs, faster processors and more memory will certainly be needed.

Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony or Ashton Tate's dBase III and Framework are examples of widely used applications that use large amounts of memory. Such systems also work much better with a hard disc given the large amounts of information they handle. And Micro Pro, the producer of the Wordstar word-processing system recommends that the newer and more powerful Wordstar 2000 system is used with a PC or clone with a hard disc.

For many modern applications a hard disc system capable of storing to megabytes - 28 times the capacity of a normal floppy disc - is essential if the user is to avoid the trial of constantly swapping floppy discs searching for the right file. The basic PC, with its relatively slow micro-processor chip can also run into trouble when it is asked to manipulate large volumes of data in spreadsheets or when using word processing on large documents.

Anyone who has used such machines as IBM's PC/AT, Compaq's Deskpro or Olivetti's M24 can vouch for the extra

speed these machines can bring to applications such as spread sheets. If they do not have to access disc files these machines can be anything up to three times faster than a basic PC.

That is not to suggest that the basic PC is now past its useful life. A basic twin floppy PC can still perform many useful functions and given the wide variety of application packages available it will continue to do so for many years.

But today, with some of the very powerful and advanced packages available, it could pay dividends in terms of time and flexibility to go for one of the more powerful systems.

Even with these systems there is still a big limitation on what they can do, and that is PC-DOS (MS-DOS for the compatibles). PC-DOS restricts what can be done in two ways: firstly it can use only 640 Kilo bytes of memory even though the PC/AT can house up to three megabytes, and it is capable of doing only one thing at a time - single tasking in the jargon of the industry.

The first problem will have to be addressed soon if the full

The 1985 PC User Show is at Olympia 2, London, from July 2 to July 4

potential of PCs such as the AT is to be used. The second problem is already being addressed through such systems as Concurrent DOS, from Digital Research, and more importantly Topview from IBM.

Both of these systems will allow a PC to perform several tasks concurrently. It has been argued that this "multitasking" is not really necessary given the uses to which most PCs are put.

But anyone who has had to print out a large document, about 30,000 - roughly the contents of one floppy disc - knows that it can take several hours just for the printing. During that time the PC can be used for nothing else. Multitasking would be a valuable adjunct to such powerful machines as the PC/AT.

One possible area where the PC could find heavy use in future is in the home. Although Britain has a very high level of home penetration most of the systems in use are of the Sinclair or Acorn type, which are fine for very basic purposes but are not powerful enough nor do they have enough functions for more sophisticated uses.

The lack of software compatibility with most of the systems in use in offices is a further limitation.

The new, advanced systems now appearing need to be compatible with the older generation of machines, so the basic PC could find use in the home. But having a large and not too pretty full-scale PC sitting at home is not everyone's idea of what is needed.

What of the non-IBM compatible market? What is the future there?

According to independent figures IBM and the clone makers have a market share of more than 46 per cent of micros sold in Britain, with IBM out in front with 28 per cent.

After IBM comes Act with its Apricot and Sirius machines, both of which use the MS-DOS operating system but which are not compatible with the IBM PC. Apple comes next with roughly the same market share as Olivetti, which does sell IBM clones.

Neither the Apple II nor the newer Macintosh are compatible with the PC standard and that is the rub.

By using MS-DOS Act made it easy for PC software to be adapted to run on the Apricot range. Apple has had to wait for Lotus, the developer of 1-2-3, to rewrite the product for its Macintosh machine.

This lack of software has been largely responsible for the problems currently affecting Apple. Meanwhile the easy to use facilities of Macintosh are now available for a wide range of other PCs through Digital Research's GEM product.

Kevan Pearson



Lunchtime chips at the Criterion Brasserie, Piccadilly: Apricot FP, left; Tandy 100; Data General DG1; and Apple IIc portable. The Compaq plus, far right, has a 10mb hard disc in place of the original 5 1/4 in. floppy

Portable machines to fit into a briefcase



It is smaller than a briefcase, more exact than an abacus and it deals quickly with long documents. It is the latest in portable computers.

Unfortunately, it is also likely to be a big challenge for whoever is selling it. Portable computers have come a long way in the past three years - going from being under-powered heavy beasts the size of sewing machines to being the operating equals, and sometimes superiors, of desktop computers. But the decrease in size has not been matched by an increase in sales.

In fact, the most popular portable computer is also one of the oldest and largest - the Compaq portable computer. The machine was first shown in 1982 and is about the size of a sewing machine, runs on mains power and can use all the programs and add-ons developed for IBM's Personal Computer.

The Compaq computer is classed by computer buffs not as a portable, but as a "luggable" - because it's relatively hefty and cannot run on battery power. According to industry pundits, "true" portables, also known as lap-tops, are small enough to fit on your lap or in your briefcase.

The first lap-top computer to make any great impact on the computer market was Tandy's Model 100 (also produced in other variations by NEC and Olivetti), which offered a built-in Liquid Crystal Display screen, word processing and computer communications software, an address book and diary program, the basic programming language and up to 32K of RAM (Random Access Memory) battery-operated memory.

Although the Model 100 has achieved moderate success, Tandy has had trouble selling a more expensive, bigger-screen model known as the Model 200. This is despite the fact that the new machine has a good many more features, including increased memory capacity and a built-in spreadsheet/financial analysis program.

All of these point up a number of interesting conclusions about how, why, where and what people use portable computers for.

It's clear that Compaq's portable is a best-seller not because of its weight but because it is compatible with IBM's PC and can easily be moved from desk to desk within an office.

The DG machine can use the latest integrated software

It is also clear that when people use "lap-held" portable computers - such as the Model 100 - they have relatively specific tasks in mind and do not expect their lap-held computers to do everything that the desktop PC can do.

The lap-held machine is for making some notes on the train, capturing data at a worksite, or for keeping "incidental" information such as diaries and address books.

But the new generation of portable computers is aimed at doing a good deal more than either the lap-held or luggable computer has been able to do. These machines are aimed at replacing, rather than supplementing, the desktop computer, and providing full power and efficiency in a machine that will fit into a briefcase.

Typical of this new breed of machine is Data General's DG One portable computer, which supplies software written for the IBM PC, and offers an 80-column by 25-line Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screen, up to 512K RAM and two built-in 3.5in disk drives.

The only possible drawback to this portable-as-desktop system is that it requires the use of an LCD screen, as used in many digital watches.

But Data General says it has been aware of this problem and has upgraded the screen since the machine's release, so that it now uses the best display that LCD technology has to offer.

Another difficulty with the DG One, which is not immediately apparent, is that it uses smaller disks than the IBM PC, and thus software released on IBM disks will not fit into the DG One's internal disk drives.

But the company does offer a largish, external disk drive for the system which can use standard IBM disks and lets you use off-the-shelf IBM software.

Data General says, however, that many large software houses - including Ashton-Tate, Lotus and MicroPro - are now releasing software on Data General's small 3.5in disks and that you will soon be able to run all the most popular IBM software on the internal disk drives.

The other problem Data General faces is IBM.

IBM has not yet released a portable machine in the size and specification of the Data General machine - although they are rumoured to be on the verge of doing so. IBM's much-leaked and talked-about Project Clamshell portable computer is expected to be unveiled

in August - and Data General can hardly wait for that to happen.

But IBM's launch of a portable will not only legitimize the market for Data General - it will make things easier for Britain's Applied Computer Techniques, which entered the portable computer market last year.

ACT's portable also uses the latest in computer technology: infra-red key, 3.5in disk drive, large memory and LCD screen. The portable computer was acclaimed at the recent British Microcomputer Awards in London and is trying to gain a foothold in the competitive US market.

The computer of ACT, however, is not compatible with IBM's computer although it will use the wide range of

Britain's ACT entered the portable market last year

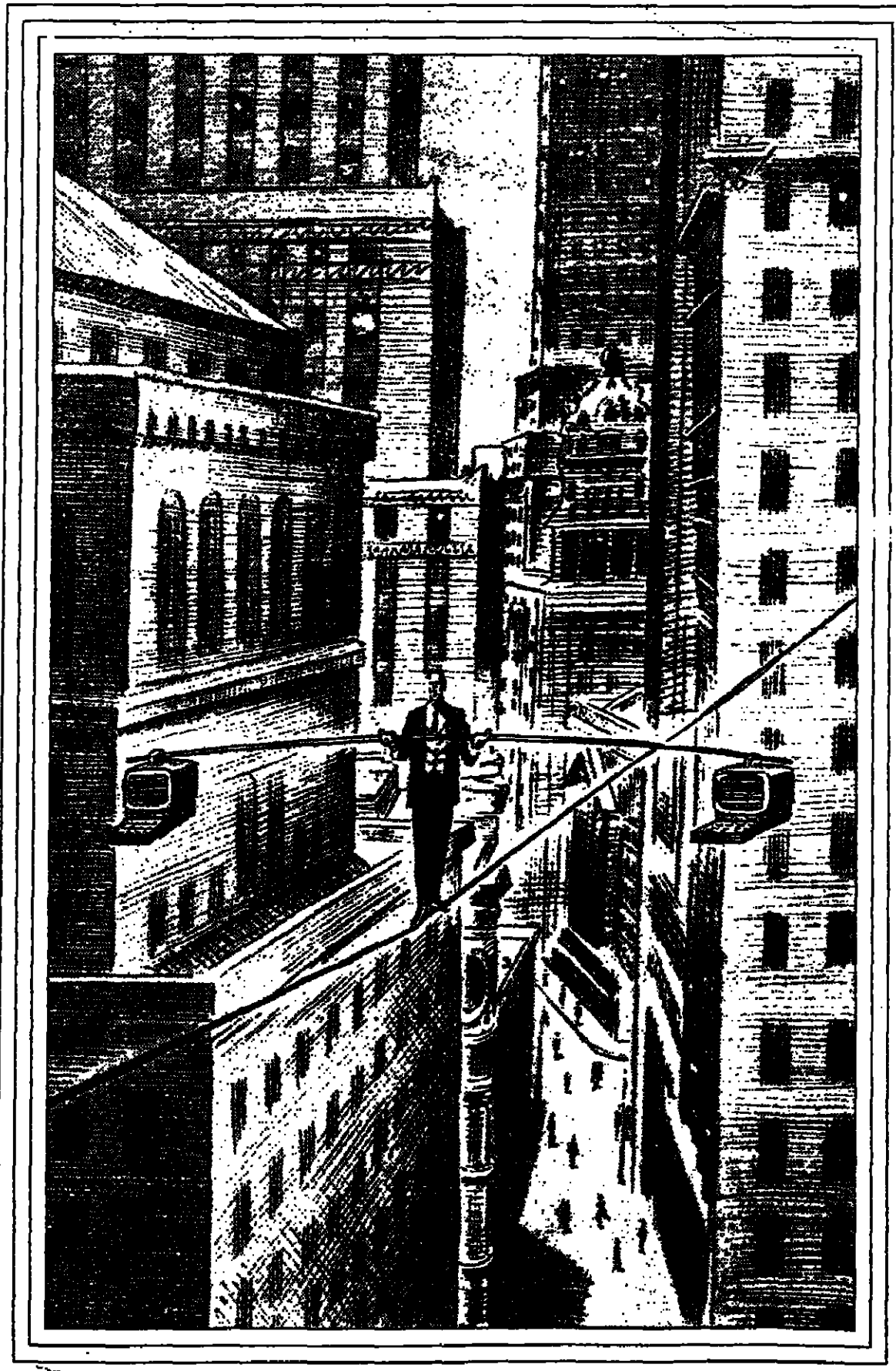
software already written for ACT's Apricot business computer.

But why should people want a portable computer?

Apple last year released a portable version of its established Apple IIc computer, the IIc, and this year announced a battery pack and LCD screen for the IIc. The IIc includes one disk drive and 128K of RAM and will run almost any program written for the Apple II of IIc, although it cannot use any "expansion hardware".

The range of portable computers now approaches that of desktop models two or three years ago. But who wants the portables? Soon it will be seen if the growth rate is to level off or even decline.

Geof Wheelwright



Power and ease: dBASE III strikes the impossible balance.

The question persists. "Why can't I standardise on one database product for experienced and novice users alike?"

Now with dBASE III™ you can. And no tricks.

On one hand it's the most powerful database software for 16-bit PCs. The world's top-seller. On the other, it has a unique teaching aid called ASSISTANT.

Take its power first. Not only can dBASE III store a billion records per file, with up to 10 files open at the same time, it's also a rich programming language in its own right.

So experienced programmers won't run out of headroom. Now they can develop applications for almost any task involving business data. From simple stocktaking round at the 'local' to the mightier needs of multi-nationals.

Also, with dBASE III you can easily cross over to your main-frame data, since the industry-standard dBASE file format is used.

As for newcomers, they'll hardly feel a wobble. ASSISTANT prompts them on-screen from the word go, step-by-easy-step through the most-used areas of the database.

Micro Decision put it this way. "The user is never left guessing about his next move." Hardly surprising, dBASE III is from Ashton-Tate, authors of the highly popular dBASE II™ and FRAMEWORK™ packages.

But keying is believing. So see your dealer for a demonstration. And till then, enjoy the suspense.

To: Ashton-Tate Ltd., 1 Bath Road, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 4UH. Tel: 0628 33123. Please send me details of dBASE III.

Name _____
Title _____
Company/Address _____
Tel. No. _____



MINIMUM HARDWARE FOR dBASE III: IBM PC™ OR COMPATIBLE; 256K RAM; TWO 360K DISK DRIVES; MONOCHROME MONITOR (BUT COLOUR GRAPHICS CARDS FULLY SUPPORTED); PC DOS 2.0 OR SUBSEQUENT.

SPECIAL REPORT

Who gets the raw deal in the high street?

At face value, there seems to be no logic to it. There is a large potential market for personal computer systems in small and large businesses and manufacturers have a wide variety of machines available at reasonable prices. Why then are computer dealers going out of business so quickly?

More importantly, where does this leave an individual or company planning to make a purchase? There are decisions to be made not only on what to buy, which is risky enough, but also where to buy it.

With high-street computer dealers apparently going down like flies, customers are right to be worried about the long-term survival of their source of supply.

The reasons why personal computer dealers are going out of business are complex and only partly related to "market forces". Certainly, in the home computer business the industry has suffered badly.

This is because home computers seemed to have had the potential of being the next hula-hoop. Now the hoop has stopped spinning.

At the other end of the personal computer business, however, no such effect is present. In the small business area the potential market for personal computers is huge and still largely untapped.

As Bill Gates, president of Microsoft, pointed out recently, the personal computer is on only 10 per cent of desk-tops in American corporations. The market therefore, even just in the large corporations around the world is enormous, and this is without considering the equally large market that exists among small business and the self-employed.

Servicing such a market, even with the simplest form of "box-shifting" sales techniques, calls

for a comprehensive dealer network, so why are the dealers going out of business?

Part of the answer lies within themselves. Many dealer companies have been based upon the skills and interest in computing of a few individuals. What they have had in terms of enthusiasm and computing knowledge however, has been negated by a generally poor grounding in business management.

With the personal computer, where the business has grown rapidly and the margins are very tight, financial management skills of the highest order are required, but not often present.

Also, the tight margins have had to be balanced against the

Support in the form of customer training can be important

cost of making a sale. Thirty per cent or so may seem a good margin at first (though it compares poorly with many other distributive trades) but out of that margin the dealer has to support not only the obvious business costs of rent, electricity and the like, but high costs of sales.

Figures produced by Chris Singer, managing director of Granada Business Centres, suggests that there are 20 leads to be sifted for each sales prospect made and that it takes two days to do this. There are then five prospects before a sale actually results. On top of this there are installation and support costs to consider.

This means that the dealer has a margin of only 10 per cent on which to pay the direct costs to stay in business.

A second management factor is that the interest in the

personal computer over recent years has meant that many dealers have only had to await customers coming through the door. Those people, have known exactly what they wanted.

Now, the market is changing from a "bought from" business to a "sell to" one, and many dealers will find this difficult. It will mean having to provide potential customers with something which makes them want to buy from a specific company.

The dealers who survive will be those who adhere to a "three S" philosophy - Service, Support and Specialization. Customers will choose them as suppliers.

Service and support are a natural extension of the capabilities of a good dealer. Computers are not like radios which are cheaper to replace than repair. There is a reasonable business to be made out of service and maintenance operations alone.

Support in the form of training and general customer liaison can also be important. Unfortunately, personal computers are not so simple to operate as the manufacturer's advertisements would have you believe. A great more money than would be spent on a training course can be wasted by a customer trying to find out how the machine works by itself.

General liaison with a customer, spending time hand-holding them through their actual use of the machine, can lead to further business. Additional applications programs are a strong sales possibility, while many customers will want to add more peripheral systems such as printers and plotters.

A reasonable number will want to add to their stock of personal computers, and they will turn to the supportive dealer.



Sales advice for PC buyers: Entre, one of the high-street competitors for the business market

This means that the customer accepts that he must pay more for the system.

The dealer who specializes in serving the needs of a specific type of user - be it accountants, estate agents, mechanical engineers or whatever - is in the position to add value to the basic computer "box" by tailoring it to meet the needs of that user group.

There will always remain a few large dealer operations

where the specialization will tend towards "discount and shift the boxes".

The majority that survive however, are now likely to be those who specialize in adding value of some sort to the basic computer box, and then commit themselves to servicing and supporting the customer. That way, the customers will keep coming back for more.

Martin Banks

Finding a proper home for all the hardware

When IBM discontinued its PC Junior earlier this year, one industry commentator offered an ingenious interpretation that highlights the difference between home computing in the US and Britain.

The PC Jr had been IBM's attempt to sell home computers and it appeared to have failed. But IBM had not abandoned the home computer market, when IBM launched the PC 2 to succeed its hugely successful PC, the original model would sell at a discount as a home computer.

The original PC, now with 128K and a single disk drive in its simplest form, costs £1,577. In Britain a home computer has to be very special to sell for more than £200 or its price has to include a monitor and a storage device.

Home computing US-style has always had an extravagant aspect, viewed from this side of the Atlantic. The Apple II, of which more than two million

for the last 18 months that a new style of home computing must be fostered and some have taken the first steps, perhaps anticipating the home micro slump last Christmas.

Hardly any have been successful and some have been dead so long that they have almost passed from memory. The traditional approach was to try to add disk units and a disk-operating system - usually CP/M - to a games micro.

It is currently being tried again: machines from Commodore and Amstrad, for example, may be an attempt to get a foot in both camps by producing a home computer with the capacity to take its user very much further.

Certainly home micro makers have been encouraging their buyers to build up their investments, into systems on which it would almost be a waste to play computer games. There have been memory expansions to accommodate more sophisticated software modems to communicate with systems elsewhere, disk units for greater speed and storage capacity, and occasionally special offers bringing some of these elements into the basic package.

That doesn't make them PCs for home use, but it is a step in that direction. The addition of an operating system like CP/M reinforce the trend. CP/M was the standard operating system on business micros when 8-bit processors ruled the roost.

Both CP/M and MS-DOS/PC-DOS, as the major operating systems of their day, have attracted a great deal of software that is not necessarily applicable to business use.

The appearance of such operating systems on micros destined for the home doesn't spell a future of home office

work. It could as easily lead to the evolution of home computing that many of the home computer makers have been forecasting for a long time.

Acorn has come the closest to describing this development. Its BBC Micro has probably had greater success than any other micro in Britain in the range of jobs it has taken on. Schools and homes claimed 10 per cent of the small business market. Now in Olivetti's hands, the company offers a future in which home computing means interactive video, home banking, control of domestic appliances, and much else apart from entertainment.

Acorn itself looks unlikely to lead this revolution. The reins may be passed to Atari, Sinclair, Commodore, Amstrad or perhaps a company not so far considered as a market leader.

Like IBM? It hardly seems likely. European home computer users have shown little inclination to imitate the buying

Apple is strong in French business

habits of their US counterparts over the last seven or eight years.

Apple is strong in France, mainly in business use, while Commodore has a strong small business base in West Germany, and Tandy, the third of the original US triumvirate, has yet to resolve a dilemma that has nothing to do with how home computers are used.

IBM, is another company that failed to sell an expensive system into the home market. The fact that it never brought the PC Jr to Europe tells its own story.

David Guest

Faith of the micro folk

Hope springs eternal in the breast of the business micro-computer supplier. A report from the National Computing Centre reveals that for every hardware supplier to drop out of the market since September, 1984, four new ones have joined the fray.

Even more remarkable is that it has taken place against such a depressing back-cloth of slackening orders, shaky finances and plant closures.

Many newcomers have moved towards the business micro market to shelter from the seasonal storms that have ravaged the home computer business.

Present indicators suggest that this will take them out of the frying pan into the fire. But the home business may have toughened them.

Prominent among these companies are Atari, which turned a million TV screens into games consoles; Sinclair, which precipitated the home computer boom in this country, and in a different style, Commodore, whose Pet was the first home computer to make an impact in Britain.

The same tide is carrying other suppliers on the lee shore of the business market. Amstrad is piloting its disk-equipped micro in that direction; the Enterprise 128 has apparent business potential; and Dragon 53, a casualty of earlier upheavals, is being re-launched in Britain as a small business computer running a variety of Unix.



Jack Tramiel of Atari: Aiming to sell his 520ST to a new style of business user

"One of the biggest problems facing the user today is that of choice," observes the NCC report. Companies that join an already overcrowded market do not see themselves compounding that problem. Instead, they try to present themselves as automatic choices for price, performance and other attractive features.

Price is the strongest card they hold. The business micro with a keyboard, system unit and monitor, running MS-DOS/PC-DOS, normally costs between £1,500 and £2,500.

Newcomers will undercut this but that isn't to say that they are cheap, because the computer industry will use expressions such as "competitive", "cost-effective" and "having a favourable price-performance ratio".

Manufacturers who are bringing prices down sell a business computer for less than £1,000. Some are £400 or less.

These pound-stretching computers are led by the Sinclair QL, £400 of black magic box. The first year's sales of the QL have been disappointing but there have been signs this year that the greater availability of peripherals and software will give it a second wind.

Maxwell may also be important to the future of the QL. But the popular image of the machine was confirmed last week when it won an award for being the Home Computer of 1984.

Incompatibilities aside, the home computer veterans will seek to create a new style of business user by bringing down the cost of systems. They may still face a credibility gap as reliability is a crucial factor to business users. Reports around Christmas of high return figures for faulty home computers will not have impressed them with the quality control.

The fate of some computer dealers may give the final clue as to the chances of the new wave.

Many dealers who made money out of consumer electronics in one form or another found life very hard when they moved to the business micro market. Money here is to be made not in sales but in support and maintenance, which requires re-training and investment. Exiles from the home computer business may find that the business sector is more demanding than they thought.

*The State of the UK Micro Market, published by the NCC Microsystems Centre, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4.

DG

Dial K for keyboard knowhow

The personal computer program began when one person sat at the keyboard. Then the whole business expanded and companies set up today's computer systems with exchanged addresses of customers, telephone-linked data, Prestel and its micro-pages of information.

It has now become fashionable for executives to send electronic mail to each other on the telephone, instead of memos. Meanwhile, feature-phones were also developing, with call-logging and memories holding up to 50 phone numbers.

Thus, computers are doing some of the jobs of telephones, and telephones are beginning to look like computers. In the trade, this is known as "convergence". It was inevitable that sooner or later, someone would build a telephone into the same box as a computer.

Instead of cluttering the desk with both a computer and a telephone, why not save space and money by combining the two - and use the computer's ability to store and search large amounts of data, for a bigger and cleverer telephone directory.

Over the last three years, several hybrids have appeared, most of them in America. Some of these do no more than pass voice and data messages down a line.

grated voice/data terminals", or IVDT. Others are "full scale computer/phones".

Until recently, however, the customers have not been buying. In 1982, Northern Telecom, who make the best-selling IVDT, the Displayphone, predicted sales of 100,000. So far only 30,000 have been sold, 24,000 of them in North America, and only 1,500 in Europe. This has prompted the question: is the computer/phone just another solution looking for a problem?

American analysts give two reasons for the lack of success. The first is distribution. They are being sold by relatively small venture companies. These are competing with IBM and the other micro suppliers, who have much wider dealer networks, and an established product to sell.

But the most important deterrent in America is price. A Displayphone costs £1,200, and a full computer/phone over £5,000. A link to an existing personal computer, to make it behave like a computer/phone, costs £1,500. This is a high price to pay for an electronic telephone directory.

Britain has cracked this price barrier, says Steve Denton, marketing manager in British Telecom for the Merlin Tomto. The Tomto is the computer/phone cooperatively developed by BT, ICL and Sinclair, which

is also sold by ICL as the One Per Desk.

It does all the tasks present in the American machines: the telephone directory, links to other computers and to Prestel, messaging and auto-answering.

It is also a business micro, with a resident business-software suite, the Pison Exchange, which handles Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Data Management and Business Graphics.

But it costs under £1,400, not £5,000, and fits into a small corner of an executive's desk.

Steve Denton also believes that the American distribution problems do not apply here. The Tomto is being sold by BT's Merlin sales force, 1500 strong, as part of BT's exchange and feature-phone product range.

The potential customers will be the middle managers of large companies, salesmen and professionals, such as estate agents, solicitors and auditors.

BT has only just come to the end of training its sales force in this new and unconventional product, but is already taking enough orders to show that the voice/data market-place in Britain will not follow the gloomy American pattern.

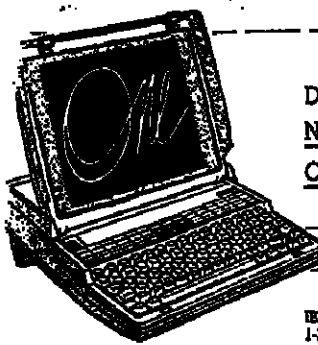
Andy Roberts, the ICL product manager for the One Per Desk also confirms that he is beating his sales targets.

Richard Sarson

The new DATA GENERAL/One. The only industry-standard PC you can use on a camel.

The new DATA GENERAL/One portable computer is really going places. Quite apart from being powered by mains electricity, it will run for up to 8 hours using rechargeable batteries. Suddenly, all those hours spent on trains and being driven between meetings becomes valuable working time. All the more valuable because at around 10lb, the DATA GENERAL/One is the only portable of its kind that gives industry-standard performance. That means it's completely compatible with a wide range of

IBM® PC software: including Wordstar®, Lotus 1-2-3™ and dBase II®. And like desk-top computers (but unlike most other portables) it has a full-size 25-line high definition screen. The DATA GENERAL/One also has a 512KB memory, almost 1.5MB of integral disk storage and the ability to communicate with mainframes (either directly or from remote locations over telephone lines). If you're investing in a portable computer, it's worth buying the one that supports you all the way.



For full details and the name of your nearest Dealer post this coupon to: Dealer Operations, DATA GENERAL Limited, 1 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FP. Or telephone Pat Cunningham on 01-836 9461.

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PERSONAL COMPUTERS/3

(SPECIAL REPORT)

The big software success story

Without software, computers would be little more than gigantic paperweights littering the desks of the country.

Software - whether it is the latest "zap-em" game for a home computer or a comprehensive payroll and accounts computer - is what makes or breaks any computer system.

Software companies have recently grown at a staggering rate. This is particularly true in the highly-competitive world of microcomputer business software.

This is particularly true in the highly-competitive world of microcomputer business software where this year's new chart-topper can be next year's "golden oldie".

Lotus developed a highly-successful Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet / database / business graphics system for the IBM PC. It was Lotus 1-2-3 which supplanted Visicalc as the best-selling microcomputer financial software - and eventually led to the takeover by Lotus of Visicalc.

In releasing 1-2-3, Lotus created a new buzz phrase in the micro software business - integrated software. Lotus 1-2-3 is the best-selling application package of its type for the IBM PC - and it is estimated that one in three PC owners use it.

It should come as no surprise then, that a host of imitators

and renovators have jumped on the integrated software bandwagon to cash in on this new-found craze.

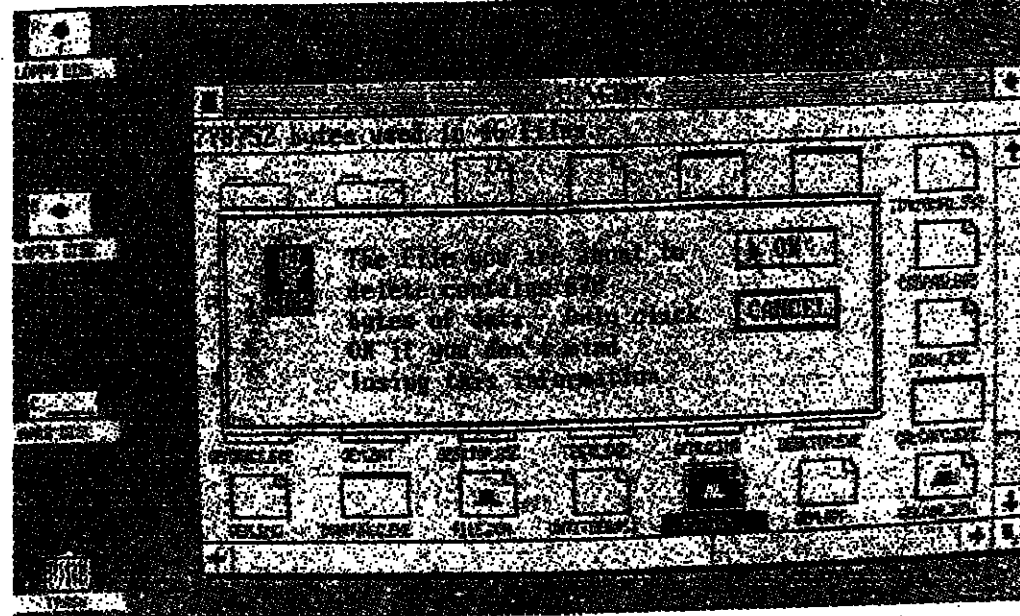
The definition of integrated software depends on who you ask. Many manufacturers claim their software is integrated - but the generally agreed-upon definition is software which includes a number of different applications, allows information to be exchanged between them and which uses a common set of commands throughout.

This means that if pressing function key 1 in the word-processor causes a file to save, the same thing will happen when you press function key 1 while using the spreadsheet.

It also means that if you have done a detailed financial analysis in the spreadsheet, you can easily transfer it to the database.

The latest crop of integrated software includes a good deal more than was available in Lotus 1-2-3. The two most well-known integrated software packages for the IBM PC - Framework by Ashton-Tate and Symphony from Lotus - include the capability to do word-processing, spreadsheet work, database organization, business graphics and computer-to-computer communication.

These programs provide a quick and easy method of moving information between different jobs without having to spend a long time learning new commands for each new appli-



Easy access: A typical screen display from GEM to help the user

cation. But there are disadvantages.

The main advantage is that each of the applications with an integrated suite of software is usually not as powerful as comparable stand-alone products. The word-processor in Symphony, for example, does not have all the features of the best-selling Multimate stand-alone word-processor.

But software does not live by power alone - there is also the matter of what computer buffers call the "user interface" - the method by which you give commands to the computer.

Work has been done recently - much of it by Apple with its Macintosh computer - to improve the ease of use in computers by allowing people to give commands by pointing to on-screen pictures (or "icons")

which represent those commands.

Now Digital Research has developed such a system for a wide variety of business computers including the IBM PC. The system is known as 'GEM' (Graphics Environment Manager) and is now available for the IBM PC and PC-compatibles, Atari and Olivetti computers.

Not only does it allow you to give commands easily to the computer, but also will soon provide applications - such as word-processing and graphics development systems - which can exchange information easily.

Also dedicated to improving ease-of-use of a system which allows data stored on a microcomputer to be easily retrieved and stored for use on a micro with microcomputer

software. Relational Technology's INGRES/PC Link will allow mainframe computers running RT's INGRES software to use commands much like those in Lotus 1-2-3 to retrieve information from mini-computers and then manipulate that information within Lotus 1-2-3.

The other approach to integration is not to provide integrated "all-in-one" software which will allow information to be exchanged between different stand-alone software products.

This is the attitude taken by Interactive Software Products with its new 20/20 software, which allows information to be put together from applications as diverse as Lotus 1-2-3, dBase II, Multiplan and Delta.

GW

Similarity breeds contempt

When most marketing men dream of having a product which is different and superior to that of the main rival, it is paradoxical that many personal computer manufacturers strive to make their products as similar as possible.

Their claim is not "our computer is better than that of IBM", but "our computer is exactly the same as that of IBM". What makes this even more surprising is that IBM's personal computer is far from the last word in technical sophistication, with performance no better than adequate.

This striving for compatibility in even the smallest detail is unique to the computer industry, and is derived from the unfortunate fact that a program written to run on one make of computer will not run on another unless designed to mimic the first brand.

This means that the software author has to choose which computers to support with his products, and naturally he tends to look for the biggest market.

Since a computer cannot perform any useful task without applications software the prospective computer buyer finds his attention drawn to a few genres, with the IBM clones predominant.

This restricts the creativity of computer designers, and tends to drag new machines down to the lowest common denominator of specification.

A classic example is the introduction by Commodore of the PC10, a machine virtually indistinguishable from the IBM PC.

If a computer user can be tempted away from the apparent security of IBM and IBM compatibility, it can yield some interesting alternatives.

Cutting away from the IBM architecture means that the computer and software designers can attempt to fill needs not addressed by other personal computer manufacturers.

The Apple Macintosh is an example of a computer which refused to compete with the IBM PC, and attracted a bandwagon effect of its own through its ability to work with and print high-quality images, something never tried before with a reasonably priced computer.

The Macintosh does not appeal to the IBM buyer, and it is far from ideal as a vehicle for conventional kinds of business.

One disadvantage of producing IBM compatible machines is that it makes the manufacturer a follower rather than a leader.

Historically, IBM has taken a tough line with compatibles manufacturers, reasoning that their business should really belong on IBM's own order books, and the company has enough commercial muscle to make its wishes come true if it really tries.

Simon Craven

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GRANADA Business Centres Putting computers to work

Lessons learned from an electronic dragon

A quiet marriage took place three years ago between two of the most popular technologies of the 1980s - microcomputers and home video equipment.

The marriage quickly gave birth to "interactive video", a new technology which could have its full effect well into the 1990s.

Interactive video takes advantage of the speed, precision and accuracy of new videodisc and video recorder in combination with the powerful control mechanisms for modern home and business microcomputers.

The application of this high-tech hybrid is, for example, a teaching and training system which lets you type information on-screen like a computer, but shows you film like a video recorder.

A child studying chemistry could watch a video of two chemicals being mixed together, then be asked when the video is stopped what will happen next.

If the answer is correct, the video would restart and show the result. If not, the sequence would be replayed and the child

would have another chance to seek the answer.

The computer controls the operation of the videodisc or videotape player and plays certain sections of the tape/disc depending on the answers given by the user of the system.

The new generation of videodisc players are considered best-suited to this task because they are far quicker than videotape and much easier to control.

Such systems have become popular among the training departments of American large

corporations and government bodies. The Westinghouse Corporation and the Caterpillar Tractor Company use such systems for training their employees, while the US Navy operates interactive video systems to teach recruits how to use ejection seats and parachutes.

Ironically, the introduction of interactive video systems did

not come from "worthy" educational systems but from an arcade videogame system called "Dragon's Lair".

This cast the player in role of a cartoon-style knight, Derek the Bold, who had to save a captured maiden from the clutches of an electronic dragon.

Unlike the conventional videogame, the on-screen images were not generated by a computer but by the hand of a Disney-cartoon animator.

The player operated the game by moving a "joystick" to indicate the direction in which he wanted to move Derek. By moving the joystick up, the videodisc would retrieve a bit of film which showed Derek jumping over a canyon. A downward joystick movement might cause the machine to show Derek falling down a cliff to his death.

But interactive video has moved beyond just using a computer to pull up selected pieces of film from a videodisc or using the system as a sort of upmarket electronic "flashcard" device. The modern interactive video kit can also be used for software simulation.

Pilots, for example, could call up a series of backgrounds, cloud conditions, runways and other visual information.

With enough filmed information from a videodisc, the flight simulator could respond like a real plane.

The major stumbling block to widespread acceptance and use of videodisc technology has been the price. Attempts in the US to marry videodisc players to home computers for less than £1000 dollars met with limited success.

The most-publicized was the Vidlink system developed by Gary Kiddall, the founder of Digital Research and inventor of the famous GPM business

operating system. Kiddall's Vidlink, announced last year, was to be a cabling and software system to link US home computers such as the Commodore 64 and Apple II micros.

Vidlink was designed to provide users with the capability of developing programs to control and manipulate the videodisc player, including finding certain locations on the videodisc, playing scenes in forward and reverse and adjusting their speed.

But Kiddall's efforts seems to have been frustrated by the slowdown in the home com-

puter market and the supremacy of the video recorder.

There are also three conflicting hardware standards in the videodisc market: CED (Capacitance Electronic Discs), VHD (Very High Density Discs) and laser disc systems.

CED was heavily backed by the huge RCA corporation, which tried to promote them as an alternative to video recorders for watching films at home. The company made heavy losses as Americans flocked to buy video recorders.

VHD and laser disc manufacturers suffered similar fates, although those that did take an interest in videodisc technology recognized that the laser variety was probably best-suited for linking with computers.

The laser system is not dissimilar to that employed by the increasingly-popular audio CD - Compact Disc players. It may well be CD technology that makes the ultimate interactive breakthrough in popularizing interactive video.

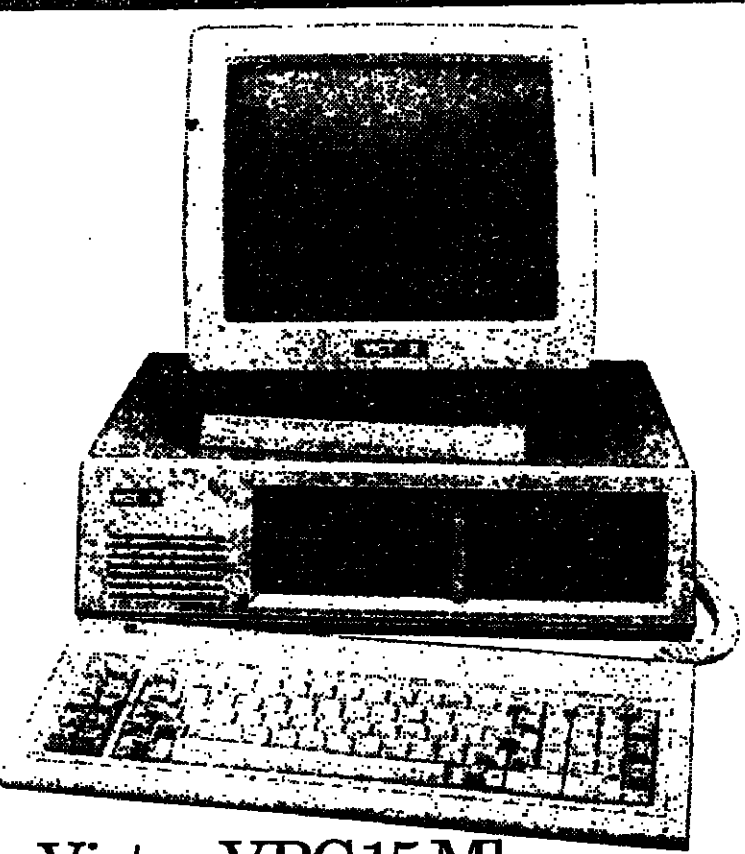
Atari has already talked of using laser disc technology to store huge libraries of information for home computer use.

Perhaps Compact Discs will give interactive video the acceptance it hoped for when its parent technologies were wed.

GW

Some PC's just don't seem to add up.

Price list for computer components: Mono Monitor £182.00+, Mono/Printer Adapter £177.00+, C.P.U. £2,952.00+, Keyboard £81.00+, Additional RAM £144.00+, DCS 2-10 £54.00+, IBM XT* 10Mb £3,684.00+ VAT



Victor VPC 15 Mb 256 K RAM £2,995.00

The package comes complete with a 15 Mb Winchester drive at around one third less than the XT, ready to run (with mono screen) at £2,995 + VAT.

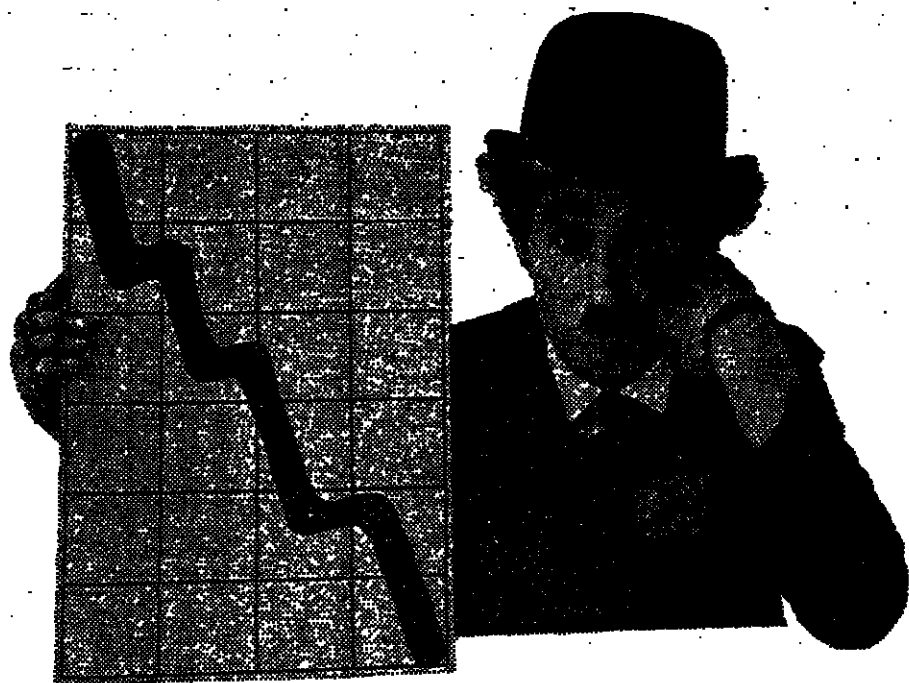
An industry standard micro with fully 50% more storage than the XT, more expansion slots and drive options, high resolution mono and colour monitors featuring tilt and swivel screens and last but not least a keyboard that's easy to understand and simple to use.

For more details contact Victor Technologies (UK) Ltd., The Valley Centre, High Wycombe, Bucks or telephone (0494) 450661.

VICTOR Technologies logo and slogan: We never forget you're human. *IBM XT prices quoted at time of going to print. IBM XT is a registered trade mark of International Business Machines.

Advertisement for MBS (More PCs than Scotland Yard!) featuring a large headline, a 'SALE OR RENTAL' banner, and a list of authorized IBM PC dealerships across the UK and Ireland. Includes contact information for MBS and a list of office locations.

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For further information about the IBM Personal Computer contact: Roger Kojecky, IBM United Kingdom Limited, PO Box 1, FREEPOST, Greenford, Middlesex UB6 9BR. Tel: 01-578 4399.

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*Published NCC date May 1985

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your right share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, 1985 High, 1985 Low, Company, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS E-K, ELECTRICALS, CASE, DRAPERY AND STORES, and BREWERIES.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Weekly Total. Includes a note: 'Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.'

1985 High Low 1984 High Low Price Change Dividend Yield P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: SHORTS (Under Five Years), FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, and UNDATED. Lists various fund names and their performance metrics.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: Index-linked fund names and their performance metrics.

PROSPECTIVE REAL REDEMPTION YIELD ON PROTECTED INFLATION RATE (GDP of 4% and 10%)

Table with columns: Fund names and their prospective real redemption yields.

1985 High Low 1984 High Low Price Change Dividend Yield P/E

BREWERIES

Table with columns: Brewery names and their performance metrics.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: Bank names and their discount rates.

BUILDING AND ROADS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

FOODS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

FOODS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

INDUSTRIALS E-K

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INDUSTRIALS L-R

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INDUSTRIALS M-T

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INDUSTRIALS U-V

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INDUSTRIALS W-X

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INDUSTRIALS A-Z

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

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OIL

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

SHIPPING

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

TEXTILES

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

TOBACCO

Table with columns: Company names and their performance metrics.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Today's General...' and 'The number...'.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Borrie in the role of social engineer

Today Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director-General of Fair Trading, is expected to make a pronouncement on discounts to retailers after a year of study involving a price survey of more than 300 food retailers.

Heavier discounts which the chains can wring from their suppliers because more volume means bigger discounts are a crucial factor in the growth of the Sainsburys, Tesco and Asdas. It is companies like these with their superstores which more than most have brought social changes by taking shopping to the edges of towns and lately into decaying inner city areas.

Those discounts, ever since the Monopolies and Mergers Commission decided in 1981 they were no bad thing because they meant lower prices to the consumer, have been developing more heat than light.

There have been complaints from the smaller shops that the difference in discount treatment they get imperils not only them but also, particularly, the elderly who rely on nearby shopping.

The supermarket chains are undoubtedly growing in power while the independents and the cooperative societies have lost market share. The big three alone account for not far short of 40 per cent of the grocery market.

The food manufacturers' margins have also been improving a little and are probably not far short of 5 per cent. So it is unlikely that Sir Gordon will recommend legislation to curb excessive discounts on the United States pattern.

So it is unlikely that Sir Gordon will recommend legislation to curb excessive discounts on the United States pattern. What is more probable is that he will look to the industry to sit down and work out some guidelines on various discounting practices that might in turn develop into a code of practice.

Lloyd's profit turns to loss. The thousands of Lloyd's names who are not members of the Richard Beckett underwriting syndicates have no doubt been waking each morning with a prayer of gratitude ever since the news of the syndicates' colossal losses came through.

The Association of Lloyd's Members (ALM), to which about 3,000 names subscribe, yesterday took a closer look at the Lloyd's performance for the 1982 underwriting year and the results look bleak.

Now that the real Sir John has taken over, everyone will be that much more relaxed. Until the report by Price Waterhouse surfaces, the assumption remains that Westland's present difficulties are a certain-raiser for overwhelming problems that lie in the future and there should be time to act.

Westland's basic problem a hole in the order book between two generations of military helicopters and the apparent failure of its home-grown stop-gap model. The decisions to be made will therefore include whether the Government values the independence of a British helicopter producer enough to help with orders not immediately essential for the military.

Permutations include proposed links with Sikorsky instead of the latter linking with Short or, indeed, some combination of the three with interesting consequences for Short's privatization. Meanwhile, Westland shares, down again yesterday to 78p, stand around half the level of the Bristow offer.

conditions had become, especially in the non-marine sector which saw underwriting losses mount to £34 million.

Nevertheless, the PCW syndicates took their toll. According to the ALM, Lloyd's would have made an underwriting profit of £10 million if PCW is excluded from the figures. This should make all Lloyd's names, not just those caught in the Richard Beckett syndicates, sit up and take notice and demand changes.

Some changes are already coming through. Alexander Howden, the insurance broker, has announced the divestment of its underwriting agency business in a management buyout worth more than £14 million. The business is to be split between two groups of underwriters, thus breaking up one of the largest agency businesses in Lloyd's.

At the same time, Lloyd's is making moves to get to the bottom of what went wrong at PCW. On Wednesday Mr Miller revealed that a separate report by Mr Simon Tuckey QC endorsed Sir Peter Green's investigations into PCW's Unimare contract, which was alleged to have irregularities. Both found no evidence of this. Meanwhile, the further investigations of which Mr Tuckey is also part, of the whole of PCW's affairs, will be presented to the Lloyd's council in the next two months.

Westland troubled by generation gap

The depth of the hole into which Westland has fallen was eloquently revealed yesterday when the Bank of England admitted that it had been orchestrating bankers and institutions to discuss support or reScue for Britain's helicopter manufacturer.

Such is the misunderstanding of the Bank's industrial efforts in the wake of the Johnson Matthey Bankers affair that the Old Lady felt it necessary to say that it was not itself mounting a rescue but was acting as a referee, a useful role it has performed with more success than failure for a number of significant companies in recent years.

The humiliation of Westland is an unhappy affair stemming first from its lobbying for more orders fast from the Ministry of Defence, then from the withdrawal of the bid from Mr Alan Bristow's consortium after the Westland board had failed to find an alternative and capitulated and the majority of Westland shareholders had followed that lead.

Quite apart from the questions raised over Westland's finances, this left Sir Basil Blackwell as a lame duck chairman. To restore confidence, the bankers wanted someone used to companies whose industrial or commercial performance was not matched by financial acumen and which needed difficult financial decisions - someone indeed, like Sir John Cuckney.

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LME claims tin intervention thwarted squeeze on traders

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

London Metal Exchange officials yesterday defended their decision to intervene in the tin market on Wednesday by claiming that there had been a deliberate attempt to squeeze traders who were legitimately short of metal.

Mr Ted Jordan, chairman of the committee of the LME, the exchange's main executive body, said: "A few days ago cash metal was available at a £2 to £3 contango, and then suddenly it turned into a £200 backwardation."

The suspension of trading late on Wednesday occurred after the backwardation - the premium charged for metal for immediate delivery as opposed to future delivery - widened dramatically to more than £800. A contango is the normal

premium that a futures contract commands over a cash contract. Mr Jordan said that until Tuesday there had been no problem with cash delivery. "Had we not closed the market there is no knowing to what level the backwardation would have gone."

After a great deal of toing and froing, a combined meeting of the committee and LME board, the market's two ruling bodies, decided yesterday morning to resume trading on the condition that the backwardation be limited to £90. Correspondingly, the penalty for traders who delayed delivery was £90 a day.

Trading began again at 12.05 and the intervention seemed to have been successful in cooling the market down. Traders said that volume was quiet and

business orderly yesterday afternoon. Most prices fell. In the standard grade contract, the three months price fell more than £90 to £9,420/£9,430 a tonne. The cash price was £9,670/£9,680, a decline of £645.

The pattern was similar in the high grade contract, where the cash price also fell £645 to £9,690/£9,700. Three months metal was fetching £9,430/£9,435, some £95 lower.

But the LME authorities' handling of the emergency has been strongly criticized. Members argue that it was unfair to impose a £90 backwardation after some traders had paid the full backwardation on Wednesday to meet their obligations.

Mr Jordan, however, defended his committee against the charge that it has closed the stable door after the horse has bolted by arguing that members had been given plenty of warning about a possible intervention.

He admitted that his canvassing of members had indicated that none was faced with financial embarrassment. But he said: "It's a question of maintaining the credibility of the LME contract. People had to feel they could deal on the LME without suffering extreme penalties."

Trade sources said that cash metal was being offered at £85 backwardation and they felt that trading today should be orderly. News analysis, page 25

IN BRIEF

THF raises Savoy tempo

Trusthouse Forte is stepping up its campaign to win control of the Savoy Hotel. The company is now actively exploring the ways in which it can secure the additional votes it needs. THF owns nearly 70 per cent of Savoy's equity but this attracts only 42 per cent of the total votes.

Lord Forte, THF's chairman, ruled out the imminent renewal of a bid but THF is considering using the courts to win control.

Yesterday THF reported pre-tax profits of £39.2 million up from £35.4 million for the six months to April 30 on sales of £551.9 million from £473.2 million. The interim dividend is increased to 1.27p from 1.125p. Tempus, page 23

Isotron offer

Isotron, a company exploiting the sterilizing powers of gamma rays, is to get a full listing. Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank, is bringing the company to market by offer for tender. The minimum tender price is 120p a share valuing the company at £14.8 million. The striking price is expected to be slightly above that. Tempus, page 23

Alexander Howden, the insurance broker owned by Alexander & Alexander Services, is divesting its Lloyd's underwriting agency business in a management buyout worth more than £1 1/2 million.

Sherry purchase

Leading international sherry shipper Harveys of Bristol have bought two sherry and brandy houses in Spain. The £11 million acquisition underpins Harveys' position in the sherry market.

M&A's US deal

Mills & Allen International is buying Gintelco, the leading US corporate bond broker for \$20 million (£15.5 million), to be financed by a £25 million 2-for-1 vendor rights issue at 28p. Mills is forecasting a final dividend of 12p, to make a total for 1984/85 of 16p (14p). Tempus, page 23

Lombard North Central, a subsidiary of National Westminster Bank, is moving its head offices from Carzon Street in the West End of London to Redhill, Surrey. Lombard has taken the 140,000 sq ft office block in the £40 million Quadrant Centre.

£25m centre

Royal Life with VRBC Dunning Developments is to build a £25 million covered shopping centre in Southampton. The 155,000 sq ft Bargate Centre will be on four levels with a central atrium and 240 parking spaces. Royal Life is buying the freehold and funding the scheme.

China shortfall

China's foreign exchange reserves have dropped to about \$11 billion (£8.52 billion) from \$14.2 billion at the end of last year and the shortfall is causing a sharp decline in imports, according to foreign bankers in Peking.

Bank urges rate cut caution

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Recent strong growth in the sterling M3 measure of money supply gives a misleading picture of the tightness of monetary policy, the Bank of England says. This is because M3 is subject to a number of distortions at present.

Despite this, the Bank concludes, in its June Quarterly Bulletin, that monetary conditions overall argue for a cautious approach to interest rate cuts.

Competition has boosted the attractions of interest-bearing deposits against other financial assets. The effect has been to produce a decline in the velocity of circulation of sterling M3 since 1980. The result is that a given rate

of sterling M3 growth may carry with it fewer inflationary dangers. The bulletin adds: "The Bank is uncertain about how much of the acceleration in broad money reflects an upward shift in the demand for money and thus carries no adverse implications for future inflation."

The Bank plays down another potential distortion to sterling M3, however, that of roundtripping or bill arbitrage. It has discovered "no convincing evidence" that bill arbitrage distorts the aggregates.

The output recovery has been strong "and the trend shows no immediate signs of slackening even though it is now entering its fifth year", the Bank says.

The overall economic message in the bulletin is encouraging, with the main danger seen in the threat that the current upward shift in inflation will result in higher pay settlements. The Bank, in common with most outside forecasters, expects inflation to abate later in the year and expects a rate of about 5.5 per cent by the end of the year.

It remains concerned about the growth of unit labour costs in Britain compared with competitor countries. The output recovery has been strong "and the trend shows no immediate signs of slackening even though it is now entering its fifth year", the Bank says.

IFC gives Chinese chance to buy shares

From Bailey Morris Washington

A joint venture with Peugeot and the Chinese Government which will allow Chinese industrial workers their first opportunity of private share ownership has been announced by the International Finance Corporation.

This represents the first investment in China by the IFC, the World Bank affiliate which is the leading multilateral agency that finances private sector business in developing countries. It is joining with Peugeot and the Guangzhou Automobile Manufacturing, an existing bus assembler, to finance a \$79.5 million (£61.6 million) truck assembly project.

Sir William Kyrie, the British executive head of IFC, said a key aspect is the decision to sell shares in the joint venture to the Chinese public within two years after the startup of operations. Preference will be given to workers in the plant to give them both a share of the profits and greater incentive on the job.

The IFC's involvement, which was necessary to finalize the project, includes a loan of \$15 million and an equity investment of \$2.5 million in the newly created company of Guangzhou Peugeot Automobile Co. The IFC was called into the project last January, when it became evident more capital was needed, and played a key role in negotiations between the Chinese and French sponsors.

"Sir William said the project is a good example of the 'catalytic role' the IFC intends to play in promoting private investment in developing countries under its new five-year plan. The World Bank's members have agreed to double the IFC's resources during this period.

The joint venture is a three-stage agreement which will allow China to modernize its domestic production facilities, with the aid of French technology, and at the same time, decrease its growing dependence on automotive imports.



Norman Tebbit at the opening of business yesterday.

Options trading starts on Liffe

Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday opened trading in options on the London International Financial Futures Exchange.

Liffe is initially trading two contracts, a sterling-dollar exchange rate option and a Eurodollar interest rate option based on the existing Liffe futures contract.

Volume on the first day was 1,459 call options and 1,237 put options for the exchange rate contract and the Eurodollar traded 191 puts and 137 calls. Each exchange rate option is on £25,000, while the Eurodollar is for \$1 million.

Mr Tebbit said: "I hope that all British firms and many foreign ones too take full advantage of the opportunities offered by markets like Liffe to hedge some of their risks."

Mr Brian Williamson, chairman of Liffe, said he was pleased with the first day's trading.

Bell discounts Guinness pledge on job cuts

By William Kay, City Editor

City advisers to Arthur Bell & Sons, the Perth-based whisky maker, last night dismissed as meaningless a guarantee by Guinness, the brewing group, that there will be no redundancies at Bell if Guinness succeeds in its £300 million takeover bid.

In the formal document accompanying the bid Mr Ernest Saunders, the chief executive of Guinness argues that "without the skills that Guinness' management can bring to Bell, we believe that Bell's position will weaken and that the prospects for employment will deteriorate correspondingly." The first closing date for the bid is July 18.

The Bell camp, led by Mr Raymond Miquel, the chairman, disputes Mr Saunders' claim that the two companies will benefit by merging.

Bell announced yesterday that it had appointed S. G. Warburg and Co. as its UK merchant bank, after a decision by the Takeover Panel that Morgan Grenfell & Co. had legitimately severed its links with Bell. Morgan is acting for Guinness.

Henry Ansbacher and Co. will continue to act for Bell overseas. Lord Spens, Ansbacher's managing director, previously acted for Bell when he was at Morgan Grenfell.

D'Abo wins Selincourt

By Patience Wheatcroft

Mrs Jennifer d'Abo's Stormgard has succeeded in its bid to take over Selincourt, the textile group. The £21 million offer went unconditional yesterday with Stormgard having collected 55.25 per cent of the shares. Stormgard had been buying in the market over the past few days, paying around 30p a share for 4.1 per cent of the company, against its cash offer of 28.6p.

Previously been involved with a public company but her bid for Selincourt is backed by five leading institutions who are also involved with Ryman. Selincourt forecasts that profits for the year to next January will rise from £1.38 million to £1.85 million.

Burton Group has extended its bid for Debenbans until July 10. Only 0.14 per cent of shares have accepted the offer, taking Burton's holding to just 0.84 per cent.

Big N Sea gas find for Britoil

By David Young Energy Correspondent

A significant gas discovery in the southern sector of the North Sea has been confirmed by Britoil which has already formed a project team to develop the field and is to seek Department of Energy approval early next year.

The field, to the north-west of the Amethyst field already discovered by Britoil, could contain as much as 350 billion cubic feet to add to the 450 billion cubic feet at Amethyst.

Four steel-jacketed platforms will be built to develop the field, and Britoil plans to bring the gas ashore by mid-1988. It will either build a new pipeline to Humberstone or will connect to the pipeline being built for the group of "V" blocks to the south.

Britoil is among the 12 leading North Sea oil companies, headed by Shell and Esso, which have announced the formation of a joint company to vet claims made by the suppliers to the industry.

The Quality Appraisal Service Company will monitor suppliers to make sure that claims on what and when they can produce are met and that the various British standards are also met.

The oil industry says that besides saving itself money, by avoiding duplication, it will be able to help the companies monitored by showing other potential customers that they have met the strict requirements of the competitive North Sea environment.

Norway said yesterday it would implement enforced arbitration to end a two-week strike that has halted exploration work on the Norwegian continental shelf and is threatening oil production.

Amro Bank buys out EBC for £26m

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank (Amro) is paying about £26 million to buy out European Banking Company (EBC), the London consortium, in which Midland Bank has a 14 per cent stake.

The deal is part of a wider restructuring within the (EBC), European Banks International. The other element is a reduction in Midland Bank's shareholding in European American Bancorp (EAB), the New York consortium, from 20 per cent to 4.9 per cent. Midland was obliged to do this anyway. When it bought control of Crocker National, the California bank, in 1981, it was told by the Federal Reserve Board to cut its stake in EAB.

Company a group of seven European banks, from which Midland Bank will raise more than £20 million. The moves are in line with Midland's policy of shedding minority investments in which it has capital tied up but not management control.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Includes data for FT Ind Ord, FT-A All Share, FT Govt Securities, etc.

WALL ST WIRE

Bond prices start to rise again

From Maxwell Newton New York

The improvement in the bond market continued yesterday as bond prices started to rise after a week of declines.

The September T-Bond futures contract peaked at 79 on June 5 and reached a bottom of 75 1/2 on Wednesday this week.

The rate of decline of the bond futures has dropped sharply this week from an average of 1/2 a day in the last three days of last week to an average of 1/4 in the first three days of this week.

By mid-morning yesterday the T-bond contract had risen 1/2 to 75 1/2. At the same time the cash bond, the 11 1/4 per cent Treasury 2015, has risen 1/2 to 106 1/2.

Neither the non-dollar currencies nor the price of gold futures showed any positive response to the improvement in the bonds.

The bond markets were relieved at the good result of the Treasury four-year note auction on Wednesday and this was reflected in the good opening of the bond futures and the cash bonds.

WALL STREET

Table of stock market movements for various companies including AMF Inc, AMR, Allied Corp, Alcoa, and others, with columns for price and change.

Early gain for Dow

New York (Agencies) - Shares remained higher in the early going, but active trading yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which gained 0.78 to 1,323.81 on Wednesday was up 4.71 points to 1,328.52.

COMMODITIES

It dominated the metals market yesterday. The market was orderly and volumes low when trading resumed.

Table of commodity prices including Rubber, Soybean, Coffee, and other agricultural products.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Apart from the odd flurry, the market spent a quiet session yesterday, with currency rates still hovering within narrow bands.

Table of foreign exchange rates for various currencies including Sterling, Dollar, and others.

Table of London Financial Futures including Three Month Sterling, Dec 85, and other contracts.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Money went tight yesterday afternoon when the Bank of England's progress in relieving the shortage took some time to take effect in the discount market.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Table showing interest rates for various Euro-currency deposits.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts including General Corp, British Overseas, and others.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table of unit trust information including names of trusts, managers, and performance metrics.

TEMPUS

Rights and wrongs of M&A fund-raising

The argument raged behind closed doors at Hambros, merchant bankers to Mills & Allen International, over the relative merits of a straight vendor placing to finance the £15.5 million purchase of Gintelco - the hard-nosed "dry" approach to deals these days - compared with the old-fashioned "wet" gambit of a rights issue.

The "wets" basically won in the end, although the convolutions of the deal obscure this to some extent. Mills & Allen is issuing 8.9 million new shares to the vendors of Gintelco, who immediately sell the shares back to Hambros. In a neat version of "pass the parcel" Hambros then offers the shares to M&A shareholders on a two for nine basis at 285p, a discount of 40p on yesterday's share price.

The advantages of the rights issue approach to raising new capital are essentially precautionary. After paying the City's toll of 1.5 per cent underwriting fee, Mills & Allen gains access to existing shareholders' capital, with the added attraction of the underwriting safety net. Yet, as Mr Clive Hollick, the M&A managing director, argues, this route to fresh capital is time-consuming, expensive, compared with the vendor placing route, and biased towards the old wholesale market approach to new capital.

The irony of the fund-raising debate is that M&A's Gintelco acquisition is a highly successful bond breaker. Mr Hollick's projections are right, new corporate debt in future will be sold direct to the market and distributed to clients on demand.

M&A's aggressive entry into the US corporate bond trading market may mark the end of an era in London, not only in the way in which fresh equity capital is raised, but even in the category of liability on offer. Equity finance, especially in Britain, always looks expensive compared with bond finance. In the long run Gintelco is well placed to build up a new market segment in the City.

The deal breaks new ground in other respects. Compared with first-line multiples paid recently for second-line London stockbrokers, a maximum acquisition p/e of 8.4 looks

realistic, given the relative fluctuations in Gintelco's earnings.

Assuming M&A makes its unofficial forecast of about £27 million for the year to June 30, 1985, the earnings dilution on the deal is virtually non-existent. Both the target p/e and yield are about 8, at 325p; some brokers say the shares are a steal.

More to the point, Mr Hollick is raising rather more capital than he needs for the deal itself, bearing in mind that Gintelco has surplus cash of some £10 million. Traders expect another acquisition shortly.

Trusthouse Forte

Trusthouse Forte's unhappy relationship with the Savoy Hotel group reared its head in a variety of guises yesterday. Lord Forte, THF's chairman, took the opportunity of the interim results announcement to lambast the Savoy's top management and repeat his justifiable complaints about its voting structure. At the same time, the interim figures were boosted by the inclusion of a share of the Savoy's profits which had previously been restricted to the dividends received.

The change in accounting policy coincides with a new mood of aggression as THF steps up its efforts to win control of the Savoy. It also provides a fortuitous hike for the interim figures. At the pretax level profits increased to £39.2 million from £35.4 million. This includes £3.3 million from the Savoy group up from £1.9 million.

At the trading level, THF was able to report a very respectable 23 per cent increase in profits to £29.4 million. There had been fears that poor trading in the US linked with a higher interest bill would depress the performance. The outcome was perhaps a little disappointing for the more optimistic THF followers, but by and large it passed muster.

THF will be grateful that the London tourist boom is showing no signs of abating. Occupancy rates were up by about 8 per cent in the capital and the provinces also registered an increase of 5 per cent. There will be less scope for improvement in London in the second half and THF will be

looking to the provinces for the more substantial growth.

THF remains a sound, well managed quality business. It may not offer the dramatic growth potential of some smaller businesses but, assuming fears about a hotel cycle are unjustified, it remains a solid investment.

Isotron

Gamma rays are about to hit town. Investors may be tempted to take cover, especially in a weak market, but if they do they might miss out on Isotron.

The company has found a way of commercially exploiting the sterilizing powers of gamma rays emitted by a radioisotope called Cobalt 60. Gamma rays may kill microbes but they are good for profits. Isotron has lifted profits up to 35 per cent compound in the past five years and it is estimating a 60 per cent increase to £1.12 million before tax for current June.

The minimum tender price of 120p values the whole company at £14.8 million. That is nearly four times the valuation put on it 18 months ago when Isotron was formed. Thompson Clive, a venture capitalist house, who brought the two constituent parts together, has done well from the deal. Its initial investment of £60,000 has risen to £1.2 million in about four years.

Despite its futuristic activity, Isotron has an uncertain future in that it has no order book. But the company is confident of growing business. Gamma rays are apparently increasingly preferred to traditional ethylene oxide gas as a sterilizing agent. And it is even possible that food manufacturers will soon be allowed to use them as a preservative.

To meet the expected demand Isotron plans to use some of the £3 million being raised for the company to build a fifth plant. By 1987 capacity could more than double. If margins can be maintained at the current level of 43 per cent that implies continued profits growth of 35 per cent annually.

On that basis the multiple falls from a historic 23 to just 12 at the minimum tender price. Stags may not like the choice of tender, but for longer-term investors gamma rays are a small premium.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares hit year's low then recover

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

Shares plunged to their lowest level of the year yesterday. In nervous and tense trading prices were often savaged and at one time the FT 30-share index was down 13.5 points at 923.0.

But a rally set in just as many market men were fretting and fussing about the index finishing the day perilously near the 900-point mark.

Bear closing and new time buying for the next account, plus old-fashioned bargain hunting, started to influence prices. By the close the market was looking more optimistic than for some time.

Many dealers regard today's performance as particularly crucial. If the account ends with another share slide, the next rearing point could, it is felt, be nearer 800 points than 900 points. But a display of strength could indicate that the worst is over and prices could start to build on present levels.

The FT 30-share index finished just 2.6 points down at 933.9, 5.2 above its lowest 1985 closing level. The 100-strong FT SE share index, down 15 points at lunchtime, ended 2.2 lower at 1,234.3.

Electricals again suffered the main impact of yesterday's disillusionment. Thorn EMI, which slumped 34p on Wednesday, was again in the doldrums. At one time it was registering a 33p fall. The shares closed at 364p, down 13p.

Thorn shares had, until Wednesday, survived the electrical blitz better than most, partly due to takeover hopes. But with Scringesour Vickers, the broker, downgrading its profit forecast and worries mounting about its Ferguson offshoot, the price collapsed.

Other electricals, despite hints of a late rally, continued to look depressed. Sentiment was not helped by disappointing figures from MK Electric, down 10p at 230p.

But Telefonica, a smaller and Spanish version of British

BAT Industries held at 313p yesterday as Rowe & Pitman, the broker, sent out a strong buy signal. Mr Mark Duffy and Mr Stephen Carr, the analysts, expect to become a world-wide financial services group by 1990. Profits for this year are estimated at £1,548 million with £1,770 million pencilled in for next year.

Telecom, made a sound start at 260p. BT itself joined in the rally to close at 172p, up 1p on the day.

The deluge of cash calls continues to worry the market and many underwriters are twitching nervously about the prospect of having to take up the bulk of the current round of

The advertising agency Gears Cross whose shares have plunged from 140p since the loss of its biggest US account began the long haul back with an 11p improvement at 76p. Eurocom, the French firm of admen which owns 18 per cent, is favourite to bid. But meantime the shares look like remaining nervous.

The arrival of Sir John Cuckney to head helicopter makers Westland failed to send to shares into orbit - just something of a tailspin taking them back a further 5p to 78p. Some say his task at John Brown, which he also runs, looks easy in comparison with difficulties at Westland.

Windsor Securities, the insurance broker, shaded 1p to 51p as the four Lander Investments directors, led by Mr John Carr, joined the board after Wednesday's shareholders' meeting.

A. Caird and Sons, a former retailing group which has been reborn as a property business, rose 1p to 31p as Bricombin

The City's leading team of brewery analysts is changing firms. De Zoete and Bevan, the brother, has confirmed it has lured Mr Neil Scourse, Mr Tom Corran, Mr Barry Norrman from its rival, Fielding, Newson-Smith. Mr Tim Coghlan, a partner at de Zoete, would not be drawn on what was offered to the drinks team, which leaves one surviving member at Fielding. Mr Scourse and Mr Dravers are partners at Fielding, which refused to comment on the departures.

acquisition for £11 million of two leading sherry groups - Fernando A de Terry and Palomino y Vergara - and the shares slipped 6p to 215p. But then buyers appeared again. The price, on renewed speculation about bids and deals, regained half its fall at 218p.

Greenall Whitley, said to be on the verge of buying a small Midlands brewery, J P Simpkins, edged ahead and Scottish and Newcastle Breweries finished a shade harder at 139p. The group's annual figures are due on Monday and L Messel and Co, the broker, has raised its forecast by £2 million to £65 million.

Guinness was unchanged at 249p as it published its offer document for Arthur Bell and Sons, which was up 5p at 238p.

One of the sharpest falls of the day was suffered by Allied Colloids, the speciality chemicals manufacturer. Full-year results of £19.2 million fell well short of most expectations of around £24 million. After first dipping 23p, the assault on the shares continued leaving them down 56p at the close at 155p.

Analysts were in a sour mood having been totally caught out by the performance and promptly began lowering forecasts for the current year. One firm which follows the company closely slashed its forecast from more than £30 million to £22 million and there were predictions that the shares are likely to remain in the doldrums for some time. "You could say there now exists something of a credibility gap," said one analyst.

Clearly, there will be inequities into the Allied Colloids forecasting. Only last week one broker sent out a buy circular when the shares were standing at 223p and another recommended them as a "strong hold".

Capel-Cure Myers, the brokers, called off a meeting at which terms of Meggitt Holdings; planned acquisition of Negretti were to be announced. Meggitt's shares were suspended at 102p on Monday.

Mr Ken Coates, a director of Meggitt, strongly denied speculation that the deal had been affected by the current weakness among electricals. Negretti supplies instruments to the defence industry.

Mr Coates claims Capel-Cure Myers had called the meeting prematurely. It seems the paperwork was not ready. If that problem can be overcome the deal could still go ahead today or tomorrow.

YORK TRAILER HOLDINGS: Agreement has been reached for a recommended offer to be made on behalf of a subsidiary of United Parcels for the ordinary capital of York Trailers. The offer places a value of about £4.96 million on York Trailers for each ordinary share in York, 45p in cash.

FULLER SMITH AND TURNER: Year to March 29. Total dividend 6.5 per cent (5.25 per cent). Figures in £000. Turnover 36,214 (32,255). Profit, before tax, 1,694 (1,431).

TRANSCONTINENTAL SERVICES: Year to March 31. Final dividend 6p. Dividend income 673. Interest income 3,419. Profits on sale of investments held for dealing 2,146. Sundry income 285, making 6,523. Interest payable 199. Administration expenses 1,894. Profit before tax 4,132. Profit after tax 3,862. Earnings per ordinary share 13.6p.

Investments, part of the British and Commonwealth shipping group, declared an 11 per cent interest.

Despite prospects of a rebound in profits this year, the thumping loss from Hampstead Gold Mining Areas continued to put the shares under stress. They slipped a further 5p to 135p having come back from 215p this year.

But one firm of brokers is looking to profits of £4.1 million for the current year and £5 million the year after. Hefty provisions connected with a joint venture mining operation in the United States left the group nursing a £6 million loss last year.

There was a minor shake-out in properties with reports that some fund managers were reassessing their portfolios and slimming down the so-called second rankers. Those to feel the brunt were Lory Props, 15p lower at 255p. But losses of a few pence were widespread.

York Trailer, the truck trailer manufacturer, jumped 11p to 43p on an agreed bid of 45p from United Parcels, one of the country's leading express carriers. The deal values York Trailer at £4.96 million but still depends on it meeting a forecast

The First Security Group flotation flop has prompted Tiphook, which rents containers and trailers to the distribution industries, to shelve at the eleventh hour its plans to come to market. Details are due today. FSG was about 90 per cent left with the underwriters and when dealings started yesterday the shares traded at 120p against a 160p offer for sale price.

for the current half year of £425,000 compared with £258,000. United Parcels closed 5p lower at 66p.

Merchant banks were dull. Hambros slipped 2p to 146p. French Kier, the builders, came off the boil after this week's sharp rise which greeted news of Trafalgar House's 25 per cent shareholding in the company.

The shares retreated 5p yesterday at 181p but market men still expect Trafalgar to strike - and sooner rather than later - at a price of around 200p.

Trading on the London Option Market reached almost 10,000 deals yesterday. The index option was in demand, attracting 2,550 contracts. Commercial Union, BT and Racial Electronics were active.

RECENT ISSUES

Table with columns for company name, price, and issue details. Includes Abbeycroft 10p Ord (93a), Abbey Luff 5p Ord (180), Apollo 10p Ord (130), Blackheath 10p Ord (75a), Brent Walker 10p Ord (130), Brit Aerospace 50p Ord (375) Cpld, Brown C Care 10p Ord (70a), Bryson 10p Ord (105a), Clug 10p Ord (105), Colson 10p Ord (130), Cambridge 5p Ord (70a), Cannon Int 5p Ord (80a), Green Property 10p Ord (70a), Havantree 25p Ord (1a).

COMPANY NEWS

LONDON AND MIDLAND INDUSTRIALS: LMI has agreed to purchase the business, some assets and to assume certain liabilities of the Schnitzer Group of the US. The consideration, to be paid in cash on completion, is \$6 million (£4.7 million). Schnitzer is a privately-owned distributor, manufacturer and wholesaler of stainless steel products and accessories.

JAMES LATHAM: Year to March 31. Total dividend 13.25p (11.75p). Figures in £000. Turnover 35,335 (33,629). Pretax profit 1,657 (1,654). EPS 47.9 (53.3p).

GREAT WESTERN RESOURCES: First interim dividend 1.43p gross (1p net) for British shareholders. The final dividend for the current year to end-September, 1985, will be at least equivalent to the interim of 1.0p. Half-year to be established.

MORCEAU HOLDINGS: Interim dividend 1.2p (0.6p). Figures in £000. Turnover 6,891 (4,553) for half-year to March 31. Pretax profit 1,307 (677). Tax 327 (180). EPS 9.5p (4.8p). In spite of poor weather, Morceau has achieved a good level of activity on all contracts. Overseas projects have continued to progress well. Group order intake has increased and market conditions both home and abroad reflect a high level of enquiry.

ARTHUR HENRIQUES: No dividend for 1984 (0.5p). Turnover £4.58 million (£4.41 million). Pretax loss £214,752 (profit £74,685). Tax credit £28,472 (debit 227,392). Extraordinary debits £13,076 (nil). Loss for year £338,956 (profit £47,293). Loss per share 4.65p (earned 1.18p).

WEST'S GROUP INTERNATIONAL: Year to March 31. Total dividend 5.5p (5.5p). Figures in £000. Turnover 65,292 (52,745). Gross profit 7,439 (9,730). Pretax profit 914 (693).

MEDIA TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL: Terms have been agreed for the acquisition of Mitchell Cameras for about £1.6 million to be satisfied by an issue of 1 million MTT shares. In addition, MTT will lend to Mitchell £375,000 (£291,000) to repay the balance outstanding on its freehold premises. Mitchell makes cameras and accessories for the film industry.

BRITISH SYNPHON: With the benefit of management accounts for the five months to the end of May, the chairman, Mr Bryan Morrell, confirms that the company expects a substantial improvement in profit before tax and earnings per share for year as a whole. It also expects this to be accompanied by a significant reduction in gearing.

IMPERIAL CONTINENTAL GAS ASSOCIATION: Year to March 31. Final dividend 9.25p, making 14.5 (12.5p). Figures in £000. Turnover 649,858 (546,043). Pretax profit 80,049 (50,002). Tax well. Group order intake has increased and market conditions both home and abroad reflect a high level of enquiry.

HENRY ANSBACHER HOLDINGS: No dividend will be recommended for the year to March 31 last.

Base Lending Rates

Table of base lending rates for various banks and institutions. Includes ABN & Company (12 1/4%), Adson & Company (12 1/4%), Barclays (12 1/4%), BCCI (12 1/4%), Citibank Savings (11 3/4%), Consolidated City (12 1/4%), Continental Trust (12 1/4%), Co-operative Bank (12 1/4%), C. Hoare & Co (12 1/4%), Lloyds Bank (12 1/4%), Midland Bank (12 1/4%), Nat Westminster (12 1/4%), TSB (12 1/4%), Williams & Glyn's (12 1/4%), Citibank USA (12 1/4%).

Extracts from the Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 1985

Profit before taxation for the year increased to £10,896,000, the highest level achieved by the Group.

Sports Services

Sports news services enjoyed another year of profitable progress as they continued to adapt to the needs of a changing market.

Financial and Business Services

Year of high achievement in these businesses as they developed to serve a rapidly growing sector of the economy.

EXTEL ACHIEVE HIGHEST PROFIT

Printing

Burrups Printing Group excelled with superb turnover and profit figures.

Advertising and Public Relations

All parts of the Roysds Advertising Group contributed to a record year in turnover and rate of growth. Operating profit nearly doubled.

Publishing

Benn Brothers' profit again rose substantially and in two years has more than doubled.

Computer Systems

Digital Microsystems in the U.K. had a year of rapid expansion, sound progress and good profit although there was a setback in the U.S.

Future

The Directors are underlining their confidence in the future by recommending an increase in the final dividend.

Alan Brooker, Chairman

For a copy of the Annual Report please write to The Secretary, Extel Group PLC, Extel House, East Harding Street, London EC4P 4BE.



Brown Shipley Holdings p.l.c.

Founders Court, Lothbury, London EC2R 7HE

A copy of the annual report and accounts, which includes an illustrated section on the activities of the Group, may be obtained from The Secretary

Table with columns for Year ended 31st March, 1985, and 1984. Rows include Net disclosed profit of the group after taxation (3,429 vs 2,637), Earnings per share (24.8p vs 21.2p), Dividends per share (9.25p vs 8.18p), Dividend cover (2.68 vs 2.59), Shareholders' funds (46,758 vs 35,725).

In our Anniversary year the prospects both for banking and for insurance are encouraging. We look forward to closer collaboration when the headquarters of both parts of the Group are combined in Founders Court and we expect to complete our celebrations with further growth in the year ahead.

The Future

Profit growth in the insurance group was well spread and a number of factors have combined to produce this continued improvement. School fees insurance business, both here and in the United States, has maintained its progress; growth of the United Kingdom economy has helped our domestic customers and this, combined with the sharp increase in rates of premium, has improved the general broking result here. Overseas business placed at Lloyd's has been profitable, with currency movements favouring this predominantly dollar-based activity.

The banking result is encouraging. The greater emphasis on fee and commission earning business is making its mark and our Corporate Finance division had a notably successful year. The Investment division has moved into separate premises in Eldon Street, E.C.2 and a strong marketing effort has greatly improved public awareness of our Unit Trusts.

Group Result

Extracts from the annual statement by Lord Farnham, chairman of Brown Shipley Holdings p.l.c., for the year ended 31st March 1985.

Brown Shipley





Compagnie Française des Pétroles

Compagnie Française des Pétroles in 1984 Annual Shareholders' Meeting of June 21, 1985

The Ordinary General Shareholders' Meeting of Compagnie Française des Pétroles, held on June 21, 1985 with Mr. François-Xavier Ortoli, President, in the Chair, approved the accounts for 1984...

Highlights of 1984

- * Exploration: Encouraging results have been obtained in France (Vilpeperdu, Melun), the British North Sea, Indonesia, the United States as well as in Australia and Angola...

The General Meeting ratified the appointment as Directors of the Company of Mr. François-Xavier Ortoli with effect from October 20, 1984 and Mr. Edouard de Royere with effect from April 3, 1985.

Some figures on the Group:

Table with 4 columns: Resources, 1983, 1984, and 1985. Rows include Oil (Million Tons), Gas (Billion m³), Results (Consolidated, in billions of Francs), Sales, Earnings, and Net Investments.

The brochure 'Compagnie Française des Pétroles and the Total Group in 1984' is available on request from Service Diffusion, 5 Rue Michel-Ange, 75781 Paris Cedex 16, France.

Compagnie Française des Pétroles has changed its name to Total Compagnie Française des Pétroles

Total Compagnie Française des Pétroles has become the new corporate identity of Compagnie Française des Pétroles. This decision was taken, following a recommendation of the Board of Directors...

In a statement issued on Wednesday evening, the day the crisis broke, Mr De Koning said

News analysis

Anger as market chiefs save tin speculators from massive losses

Tin prices have struck the London tin market again. The episode raises important questions about the running of the market. Michael Prest reports.

Over the past three days the London tin market has been plunged into its most serious crisis since the great price manipulation of 1982. The London Metal Exchange authorities have been forced to intervene in the market...

The chances are that the market will settle down next week, when the squeeze on metal for cash delivery should be over. But the timing of the crisis could not have been more embarrassing for the LME...

Shorts

It is inevitable that after the events of the past week the capacity of the LME, the world's biggest tin market, to conduct its business in a manner beneficial equally to producers, traders, consumers and the International Tin Agreement...

Unfair

Some tin market traders who are not members of the LME were baffled as to why the backword had been restricted to so low an amount. They pointed out that this was especially unfair on those shorts who yesterday bit the bullet and paid the premium to meet their obligations...

Sports Commentary

David Miller

It is desirable that international sports governing bodies, responsible for handling millions of pounds and the sporting and commercial fate of thousands of clubs and individuals should be answerable for their actions. Too often they are not. The United States Soccer Federation, for instance, was on the point of suing FIFA in Switzerland over the decision in 1983 to award next year's World Cup to Mexico without having taken a vote of the executive committee...

Rights instead of obligations

This is the latest example of English football failing to get its priorities in order. Too many people in sport are these days obsessed with their rights, rather than their obligations. With the errant view that the world owes them a living, that they have a right to a stall in the marketplace...

For Everton, Manchester United, Southampton and Norwich to say that they do not condone the Brussels slaughter on the one hand, yet to demand their place in next season's competitions is morally incompatible, and it would be surprising if the court were to uphold their claim. Their action is liable to forfeit any sympathy there might be for the English overseas, totally misjudges the justified mood of authorities here and among international football associations...

Tottenham's chairman Irving Schuster is to be commended in excluding his club from such self-interest, and it might be appropriate for John Smith, in his capacity as chairman of both the Sports Council and Liverpool Football Club, to make some public recommendation on what ought to be a responsible collective reaction of all clubs to the financial penalty and predicament imposed upon them. It is only a degree of humility and practical corrective action which will regain respect.

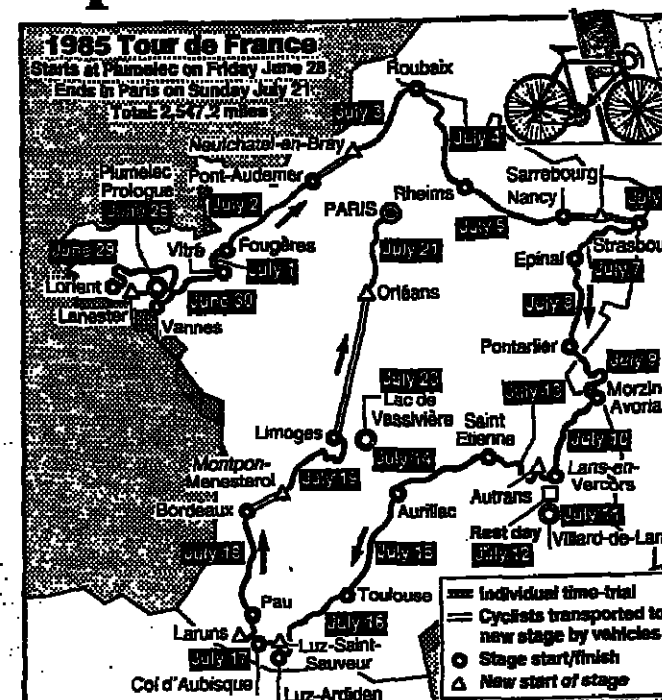
Legal questions to be solved

The technical question also arises of where UEFA and FIFA can be sued: whether they should be sued as separate bodies, or whether action against FIFA, as the supreme authority, would be sufficient. With FIFA's articles of association registered in Swiss law, any effective legal course could only be in Swiss courts; and by the time such action could be brought next season's competitions would already have begun.

As the FA's general secretary, Ted Croker, has already implied, it is quite improper for the clubs to be taking such a stance. It is a pity that Southampton and Everton, two clubs who have traditionally exhibited a degree of dignity and responsibility, should be aligning themselves with Manchester United. The only way England will overcome its embarrassment is by recognition that all must share the blame.

CYCLING Younger men feel the time has come to supersede Hinault

Plumetier (Reuter) - The twenty-second Tour de France starts today with Bernard Hinault - "Bernie the Badger" to his friends - trying once more to become only the third man to win the Tour which Fignon won in 1983. In the past two years Hinault has been prevented from equalling the record of Jacques Anquetin (France) and Eddy Merckx (Belgium) by injury and by Laurent Fignon. A case injury forced Hinault to miss the 1983 Tour, which Fignon won. "The Badger" was back in 1984 but was deprived of victory by the tall, blond, bespectacled Fignon.



This year Fignon is injured and Hinault, aged 30, must be in with a chance on his seventh Tour. The 23-day, 4,054 kilometre Tour includes five time trials. Hinault's speciality, and as an added filip to his morale, the race spends its early days in his native Brittany. Hinault may be confident but some younger competitors feel their time has come. This could be the year that throws up the first English-speaking winner of the world's greatest cycle race. One is Hinault's team-mate, Greg Lemond. The Californian, 24 yesterday, was moving into the Pyrenees for the third week before the race north to the traditional Paris finish on July 21.

THE ITINERARY

Table listing stages of the 1985 Tour de France, including dates, distances, and start/end locations.

THE FOUR LEADING CONTENDERS

Portraits and brief biographies of four leading contenders: Bernard Hinault, Robert Millar, Phil Anderson, and Greg Lemond.

EQUESTRIANISM

Whitaker's choice

John Whitaker, the Olympic team silver medalist and reigning European individual silver medalist, has been picked to represent Britain at this summer's European championships in France, but he will ride the Next team's Hopscotch and not the 17-year-old Ryan's Son, on whom he won both silver medals (Jenny MacArthur writes).

IN BRIEF

Sponsorship withdrawn

Truman Brewery have withdrawn their support for the South Hockey League after a reappraisal of their sponsorship activities. The relatively short notice has left the league committee with the problem of finding a new sponsor but the competition in its present form will continue at least for the season 1985/86 (Sydney Friskin writes).

YACHTING

Small boats favoured

Two or possibly three races this weekend will be decided by the last ten minutes of the race. The relatively short notice has left the league committee with the problem of finding a new sponsor but the competition in its present form will continue at least for the season 1985/86 (Sydney Friskin writes).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing various sports fixtures including Cricket, Golf, and other sports.

Trusthouse Forte PLC advertisement. The world's leading hotel and catering company. Results for the HALF YEAR to 30th April 1985. Table showing sales, trading profit, interest, property and investment disposals, share of profits, profit before taxation, and profit attributable to shareholders.

APPOINTMENTS

Rediffusion Simulation: Mr Derek Young becomes chairman and chief executive and Mr Victor Strachan deputy managing director. Mr Michael Walls and Sir Robert Freer have been appointed directors. Mr Strachan also becomes chairman of Rediffusion Simulation Incorporated, the company's United States subsidiary.

Law Report June 28 1985 Justices must hear renewed application

Regina v City of London Licensing Justices, Ex parte Davys of London Wine Merchants Ltd. Before Mr Justice Macpherson (Judgment delivered June 27). Licensing justices erred in law in refusing to hear a renewed application for the grant of an on-licence following their earlier refusal to grant, and in requiring a change of circumstances to be shown by the applicant.

The applicant had been advised to withdraw the proposed notice of appeal to the crown court from the justices' refusal and made the renewed application aware of the justices' policy not to hear fresh applications without some material change of circumstances. His Lordship said that the situation was distinguishable from a renewed application for bail which was analogous to res judicata: R v Nottingham Justices, Ex parte Davies ([1981] QB 38, 44). The court was bound to say why bail was refused whereas in licensing applications no reasons were given for refusal.

Thus, it was fundamental that the applicant for a new on-licence was confronted only with the justices' refusal to exercise their discretion in his favour, for which no one, least of all the applicant, except the justices themselves, could be held responsible. A prior refusal could not create any immovable bar by way of res judicata or any truly analogous principle. The justices would be entitled to say in certain circumstances that a flippant and oppressive application was an abuse of process, but such strong words should not be applied to a genuine applicant who has justices to exercise their discretion favourably even in the face of an earlier refusal.

That was so even without any change of circumstances other than the passage of time which in the licensing field could be a positive change in itself. There was no reason to law or in justice why a genuine renewed application should be stifled. It might well be that objectors, if represented, would be put to some trouble and expense by renewed applications, and there could be an increase in such applications before licensing justices. The Divisional Court in R v Leicester Licensing Committee, Ex parte Lyster and West. ([1983] 66 LGR 736) envisaged renewed applications being heard and determined after earlier refusal, emphasizing that justices would look to see if there were changes of circumstance in the new application.

Judge erred on intent

Regina v Bryson. A judge erred in law in directing a jury that if they were satisfied that the defendant foresaw that the consequences of his actions would probably be serious injury, whether or not he wished that injury, then in law he had the requisite intent for an offence under the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Ackner, Mr Justice Jupp and Mr Justice Anthony Lincoln) so held on June 27 in applying the proviso to section 2(1) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 to dismiss an appeal against conviction, but it did not throw on the making of a renewed application even in such circumstances as the present. Nor was there any statutory prohibition upon renewed applications: sections 3 to 6 of the Licensing Act 1964, setting out the applicant's rights, imposed no restrictions. His Lordship did not conclude that the justices had been unreasonable, but there were matters in the renewed application which merited a close look. Solicitors: Lickbols Wiley & Powell; Mr C F Grimwood; Watts Vallance & Vallance; Field Fisher & Martineau.

Tennis: Tom Gullikson walks tall and handsome while the twelfth seed walks around on his knees

Mecir, a big fish in alien waters, is 'grassed' by the twin from Wisconsin

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The Gullikson twins, Tom and Tim, are nice guys and handsome with it. At 33, they come from Wisconsin and, like most people from Wisconsin, are late starters on the professional tour. But in the past 10 years each in turn has kept popping into the news by beating players they were not supposed to beat. This goes down well with all who know them - because the Gulliksons, both family men, are "good pros" who quietly get on with the job and never make a fuss. The trouble with the Gulliksons is that the only way to tell them apart is to wait until they go on court. Tom is right-handed, Tim is left-handed. Yesterday it was Tom's turn to confound the Wimbledon seedings, though his 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 win over the twelfth seed, Miloslav Mecir, was hardly surprising. Mecir had played at Wimbledon only once before and his advance to last year's second round was not entirely convincing. His first-round opponent retired.

Mecir is that a wizard on shale courts. Last May in Hamburg he not only beat Joakim Nystrom, Mats Wilander and Henrik Sundstrom in consecutive matches - he often made such fools of them that the court echoed with the crowd's laughter. On grass, though, Mecir has no time to do his thing. He is an easy-going chap with no taste for doing anything in a hurry. Mecir likes fishing. He is big, lightly bearded man who always looks sleepy. He demurely suggests that, having shaved and dressed in the morning, he probably feels that he has had as much exercise as he can take in one day. On court he sometimes serves underarm when his arm and his heart get weary.

It was fun watching this dreamy Czechoslovak - treading an alien surface and fighting with all his natural instincts - set about a man who knows what grass-court tennis is all about. Mecir certainly had a go. He threw his best shot and he walked around on his knees for a while, implying that he was too tired to get up and, instead, might as well do a Toulouse Lautrec imitation.

A charming, spectacular match had an appropriate ending with Mecir sprawling on the ground again, looking puzzled and resigned as a desperate forehand went out of court. He may have mused that grass was not for tennis. It was simply something you sat on while fishing.

Hank Pfister, aged 31, has something in common with the Gulliksons in that he is a family man for whom winning tennis matches is no longer the be-all and end-all of a full life. Pfister has reached the last 16 at Wimbledon three times. This year he had a two-day match with Boris Becker, aged 17, who beat him 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Becker modestly observed later that he was looking forward to "not being a nobody". Pfister reckons that German is the best player of that age he has ever confronted. "At 17 his power and poise are incredible - and he is on such a high right now. There are 124 other guys in the draw I would rather have played. The guy has got to win the tournament some time".

Vitas Gerulaitis was playing a five-set match. When Wimbledon comes round he usually is. This was his eleventh. Out on court 17 Mike Leach was beating Wojtek Fibak in straight sets. Leach is a left-hander with calf-length socks. He has a fierce service and, having dispatched it, changes character.

When winding up Leach looks a placid, reasonable man. But once the ball has left his racket Leach charges to the forecourt as if affected by a mild form of electrocution. His limbs jerk about all over the place. He seems to rush the net from several different directions at once, which must be very confusing for whoever happens to be standing at the other end.

One of the attractions of court 17 is that, just behind it, fish and chips are available at £1.50. Another stall advertises "spit roast chickens" - an ambiguous statement that could be construed as an imperative, a warning or an invitation. Out there, too, they demonstrate a miniature version of tennis. These days Wimbledon has much to offer you and me and the masses - including all those who do not much like watching tennis.

Hana Mandlikova, aged 23, from Czechoslovakia, who is seeded third at Wimbledon, considers Zina Garrison to be the fastest player on the women's tour. Faster even than Martina Navratilova. Miss Garrison a black American, from Houston, Texas, is pigeon-toed and walks with what is termed a "shoe-shin" shuffle. But when she moves into action on a tennis court the difference is remarkable. She said, "I think I'm as fast as Martina. But we have different kinds of speed".



Rallying round the Star-Spangled Banner: Tom Gullikson's left-handed backhand

Croft's power not enough to halt a wily opponent

By David Miller

The club members were out in force on Court One in support of their junior champion of last year, but in vain. Annabel Croft saved three match points in a rousing and belated climax of resistance against Hu Na, the defeated former No. 1 of China, but it was not enough to avert a straight sets defeat by 6-3, 7-5.

There could hardly have been a more marked player contrast between the opponents. In repose, the powerful Miss Croft, with her bronzed arms, white bandeau and bouncing pony tail, looks like Wonder Woman, though the illusion was apt to diminish when in motion. At the other end Miss Na, a small, slim, expressionless figure, wholly without extrovert characteristics, belied her build. Always prepared to come forward when possible, cleverly manoeuvring the bigger girl, she dominated any volleying exchanges and the only moment of emotion was a small squeal when she saved the match points slipped by.

Miss Na has been playing since she was eight, coached by her grandfather who was a state champion in 1950. She defeated Wimbledon's former champion, Mrs Lloyd, in Santa Clara, California, three summers ago. She has a most resourceful game sense and was notably calm just when she might have lost her nerve as Miss Croft broke back on service to level the second set at 5-5. Miss Na immediately broke service in return.

Miss Croft gave the impression of stern concentration with her five deliberate strokes of the ball before each serve but her play carried none of the same reflective steadiness yesterday. Her rhythm was uneven, her line straggled, her nerve edge and her forehead on the ball and hitting from a stretched elbow. It was only when she at last seemed to chance her arm and take risks in the last

four games that she began to look as effective as she can. She had gone, 3-1 down in the first set with a forehand error and Miss Na's whipped forehand return of service on game point, and there was no denying the purposeful all-court tactics of the Chinese girl. Miss Croft made a brief recovery at the start of the second set, leading 2-0 but then her forehand began to falter and she was really stiff when surrendering her service to go 3-2 down.

Miss Na seemed without threat at 5-3, but in the tenth game Miss Croft levelled the set with a splendid rally for 30-40, a lovely return to save the first match point and backhand return to take the game. Three driving errors surrendered the next game and although a brave forehand volley and thrilling forehand pass saved another couple of match points, it was not enough. A clever, groping cross court and the excuse for momentary celebration with a little clench of the fist.

Last year Miss Croft had given Chris Lloyd a run for her money in the senior event, and yesterday Mrs Lloyd was simultaneously engaged on the centre court with an effortless elimination of Mary Lou Piatek, dropping only a single game and that on her own serve. There was a lot of talk of a return to this exhibition whether Mrs Lloyd had recovered from her injury, and that she was punching away those two-fisted backhands as inexorably as ever.

There is no face in tennis which contains less sympathy for an opponent as she puts away a winner, retreating into a state of unbecoming indifference. It was not until the match was over that she found time to cast a loyal glance in her husband's direction up in the players box.

Unflagging Hobbs masters Kim

By David Powell

Court 13 is easy to pick out from a distance in the Wimbledon maze. A Union flag flies high at the south-east corner of the All England Club, and how appropriately it was positioned yesterday. It wagged its tail viciously in the wind as if to draw attention to a rare British victory. Miss Anne Hobbs was beating Grace Kim who, if the rankings are to be believed, should have won.

Miss Hobbs showed a vicious streak too in her 6-4, 6-2, success. She hit the ball hard and if she appeared to be making too many mistakes it was because she went for winners rather than banking on errors from Miss Kim.

"I felt my game was tremendous today," Miss Hobbs said. "I couldn't have played too much better than that".

Miss Kim is an American whose movements on court were in harmony with her first name and whose yellow and purple hair ribbons offered a welcome contrast to the grey sky. As she prepared to receive service she leaned forward in the sprinter's get-set position, then danced on the spot as Miss Hobbs threw the ball into the air.

One wondered how she had any energy left to play the return and frequently she did not as Miss Hobbs kept the power on full. In the second set Miss Kim won only three points on the British No 2's service before Miss Hobbs finished off the match on a point which was typical

Rallying round the Union Jack: Anne Hobbs's right-handed forehand



Rallying round the Union Jack: Anne Hobbs's right-handed forehand. (Photographs: Harry Kerr)

Silk ties make way for cotton wool

By Geoffrey Green

How times have changed. In 1908 Mrs A. Sterry, five times the women's champion, wrote: "To my mind it looks smarter over more in the game of tennis, a nice hanging white skirt about two inches off the ground, white blouse, white band and a pale-coloured silk tie and white collar".

Now it is the wearing of that fashion-conscious Edwardian age. But the years and the arrival of Teddy Tinting, the guru of female tennis attire, eventually dragged all that into the middle of the twentieth century.

With the dollar to be seen in greedy eyes, the game has undergone a revolution. Being the scenes there lurk publicly and literary agents, managers and advertising walkie, to say nothing of the media, all of whom have seen to it that the modern player is wrapped in cotton wool. He and she have become protected animals.

They arrive at Wimbledon in fleets of courtesy cars from four-star hotels, where they enjoy room service meals if they so wish. Their prizes are enormous. Their main headache are the time-consuming press conferences at which they can face many aggravating questions of a personal nature.

The game provides a theatre of war in which apprehension trembles within all the east and where skill is measured by the computer. Not before time, the international authority have realized the harm being done to the young who are pushed by their avaricious parents towards the silver ball.

There are professional tournaments for the under-12s and the under-14s. There is growing alarm as young players are being exhausted and burnt out mentally and physically by the strains imposed. Tracy Austin, sport's first 17-year-old millionaire and Andrea Jaeger, an equally young Wimbledon finalist two years ago, have dropped out of the game, affected by the stress.

Wimbledon now plays host to Gabriela Sabatini, a 15-year-old Argentinean, Steffi Graf, a 16-year-old German, and Carling Bassett, a 17-year-old Canadian. Outwardly they are all as charming and trim as a daisy; but what fires are burning within them?

It is all too sad. The dawn of childhood with its delicate bloom, its clear pure light, its joy of innocence and expectation, has been left behind.

In 1887, Lottie Dod, of Great Britain, became at 15 the youngest winner of the women's singles. So what? That was like playing on a vicar's court followed by tea and cucumber sandwiches.

Sponsors agree to pay £20,000

Stella Arnis, the sponsors of the annual Queen's Club Tournament, are to pay £20,000 to spectators under their rafflecheck guarantee.

A capacity crowd of almost 4,000 at the Centre Court were able to watch only one hour, 36 minutes play on June 11 because of rain. A minimum of two hours a day was ordered and therefore the tournament organizers are sending a full refund to spectators.

Jan Wright, the executive director, said: "This is only the second time in seven years that we have had occasion to implement the Stella Arnis rafflecheck."

FOR THE RECORD

Table with columns for BASEBALL, BASKETBALL, CRICKET, and SPEEDWAY, listing various sports events and results.

IN BRIEF

Michael Gross, of West Germany, who won two gold medals at last year's Olympic Games, claimed his third world record, in Remscheid, West Germany, yesterday, when he beat Vladimir Salnikov's 400 metres freestyle mark by half a second. Gross, who holds the world records for the 200 metres butterfly, won in 3min 47.80sec.

GOLF

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SWIMMING

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FOOTBALL: Stockport County

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Play lost in the mist

The first round of the Johnnie Walker Monte Carlo Open was abandoned here yesterday when swirling mist reduced visibility at times to a few feet on the Most Agee course.

Spanish chaser

Severiano Ballesteros has moved up to second place behind Paul Way in the Bell's Scotch Ryder Cup table which counts towards selection for the match against United States at The Belfry from September 13 to 15.

Scot in lead

Muriel Thomson, the Scottish professional, retains her lead in the Women's Professional Golf Association's Ring and Hammer order of merit after finishing joint fourth in the Bowring Birmingham Classic. She has winnings of £7,594.

Advertisement for Dunlop tennis rackets. Text: 'The most powerful racket in the world.' Includes an image of a tennis player and a Dunlop racket.

Advertisement for Dunlop tennis rackets. Text: 'Says who? Says the most overpowering tennis player in the world, John McEnroe. The Dunlop Max 200G is the world's only graphite injection-moulded racket. The most powerful racket in the world allows precise control and gives unbelievable vibration dampening. And I speak from experience.' Includes a signature of John McEnroe and the Dunlop Sport logo.

CRICKET: CHANGING FORTUNES ON FIRST DAY STIMULATE INTEREST

Cricket hits best score in 14 Tests

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent
LORD'S: England have scored 273 for eight wickets against Australia

A toast, before going any further, to the ground staff at Lord's. Thanks to their yeoman efforts through most of Wednesday night the second Test match, sponsored by Cornhill, started with a full day's play. In the middle of what had been a swamp 24 hours earlier, England scored 273 for eight after being put in by Australia, and Gower's confidence was restored with an admirable innings of 86, his best for 14 Tests.

The mud on the Australians' flannels, from where they had thrown themselves wholeheartedly round the field, and the sawdust on the old creases were the only reminders of the floods, and by close of play we had the makings of another close-fought game. After rather misty and gloomy weather, the late afternoon, with England at 107 for three, Australia accounted for the wickets of Gower, Botham and Lamb in the nick of time. Lawson and McDermott, who shared seven of the wickets, were well supported by Holland, bowling from the nursery end and showing rare control for a leg spinner. Australia thus got away playing only four bowlers, as a side usually will when, as now, there is something in the pitch to help them.

The chances are that wickets will get harder to come by as the days pass, unless, because its preparation was interrupted, the pitch breaks up. Yesterday the bounce was less than even and the ball moved about. Gower's 86 in 43 overs was, nevertheless, a high class piece of batting just as McDermott's four for 62 in 24 overs was a splendidly staunch piece of bowling. Just 20 McDermott is already a real cricketer. It was a day



Australian joy: Ritchie congratulated by O'Donnell (left) and Lawson (right) on catching Botham (photograph: Chris Cole).

Now it was the same story. I suppose in a way it is not different from getting out to a weakness outside off stump, as Gower was to do. Self-destruction is common to both dismissals. Yet in Gating's case it is entirely out of character. He had just had an exchange of words with Lawson, but again it would be unkind to him to have been put off by that.

Very well, and he and Lamb betted through most of the rest of the afternoon, adding 80 with care but always with an eye for the looser ball. Three England captains have scored centuries against Australia at Lord's - Chapman in 1930, Hammond in 1938 and Hutton in 1953 - Gower was most of the way to becoming the fourth when, throwing the bat at the pitch of a ball from McDermott just before tea, he was nicely caught at second slip. He had played some lovely strokes, mostly through the covers.

Gating is back at bottom of the form

Simon Barnes

"Love is like a rebellious bird that no one can tame," sings Carmen. Had Carmen been a cricketer, she would have sung much the same thing, but her subject would have been the vagaries of form, rather than the intermittencies of the heart. "It's quite useless to call him if it suits him to refuse. Nothing moves him, neither threat nor flattery."

Form is as capricious, as wanton, as capricious as heavenly and as hellish as any excitement in Carmen's non-cricketing sphere of operation. You ask Gating, the hero of Leeds, who had respected his career. The change of his double bow with never a stroke played, against West Indies at Lord's last season was, until yesterday, on the way to being expunged from the memory.

Lawson was having the kind of day when you exultate between the scores. Far from his feet and his cap. It is meant to be Australia's main strike bowler, but he had a perfectly horrid time after lunch becoming trapped in a rhythm of no-balls, and sent down a dozen of them in four overs. Even so, he was something of a down on him at the moment.

Day of the spotted dog at Bristol

By Alan Gibson

BRISTOL: Hampshire, with eight second innings wickets in hand, lead Gloucestershire by 100 runs. Well, we had some cricket, which is encouraging in the current climate. The clouds were always lurking at us from an uncomfortably low level. The Hampshire innings was over in 110 minutes, but Gloucestershire had lost five wickets for 74, after batting for 27 overs. This was better than they might have envisaged when they were 21 for four.

Marshall had Stovold leg-before after he had been dropped. A Devon change at slip, Blairbridge at the wicket. Connor had Romaines caught at slip.

Wiley speeds things up

By Peter Ball

BRADFORD: Yorkshire, all second-innings wickets standing, lead Leicestershire by 123 runs. Like Yorkshire, Leicestershire are anchored in the lower reaches of the Championship table. They at least, however, are attempting to improve on the series of stagnant draws which have taken them there.

Wiley yesterday opened up the game by declaring 70 runs behind, after Yorkshire had contained their crowd-enduring proceedings. The following morning, Wiley played the leading role in a third-wicket stand of 115 in 33 overs with Buncher, a rate of scoring which put Yorkshire's aggressively approach into perspective.

McEwan at full throttle

By Richard Streeton

Chesham: Essex, with eight first innings wickets in hand, are 21 runs behind Kent. Ken McEwan was the only batsman able to overcome an insipid pitch yesterday, when Essex and Kent began what has become a two-day match. Early on the seam bowlers obtained lift and movement and after the ball tended to keep low, Kent, who were put in to bat, were dismissed shortly before four o'clock and did well to reach 174.

Essex took two quick wickets before McEwan came in to underline how much the county will miss him when he leaves at the end of the season. Hardie had been caught at second slip off Jarvis and Cladwin was caught behind in Essex's first over.

Fowler on a high at long last

By Ivo Tennant

Gloucestershire: Gloucestershire managed to reach 191, and the last time I saw Ken Graveney he was smiling. I think he may have been a little more cheerful after an opening stand by Greenidge and Terry, neither of whom is in the team, but put Hampshire back in the match.

Javed century lifts Glamorgan's hopes

By Marcus Williams

CARDIFF: Glamorgan, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 238 runs behind Somerset. A splendidly defiant 101 not out in three and a half hours by the Pakistan captain, Javed Miandad, lifted Glamorgan together yesterday after they had been in danger of collapse replying to Somerset's massive 413 for 7 dec.

Worcs v Middlesex

AT WORCESTER

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Scotland v Zimbabweans

AT COATBRIDGE

SCOTLAND: Scotland First Innings 28. Zimbabweans First Innings 28. Scotland Second Innings 28. Zimbabweans Second Innings 28.

Derbyshire v Notts

AT DERBY

DERBYSHIRE: Derbyshire First Innings 28. Nottinghamshire First Innings 28. Derbyshire Second Innings 28. Nottinghamshire Second Innings 28.

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Northants v Surrey

AT NORTHAMPTON

NORTHANTS: Northants First Innings 28. Surrey First Innings 28. Northants Second Innings 28. Surrey Second Innings 28.

Salisbury

AT SALISBURY

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Whitbread's success continues with a personal best

From Pat Butcher, Oslo

Fatima Whitbread took the burgeoning standard of British javelin-throwing up another notch last night with a personal best of 71.22m to win at the Bislett Games. That adds 25cm to her previous best and makes this an impressive week for Miss Whitbread because she threw 71.28m in Belfast on Monday.

"I'm particularly pleased because this is the first year that I have been able to throw 70 metres in an international competition," Miss Whitbread said. "My improvement is principally due to the strength I've gained this winter, which means that I've actually been able to cut my arm speed by 10 per cent. My overall ambition remains to win the grand slam of javelin-throwing: the Commonwealth, European, world and Olympic titles."

Miss Whitbread's best came on the second throw of the competition, and she hit form just in time for some tough challenges in the next two weeks. She said that last night was only a warm-up for tomorrow. For the Olympic bronze medal winner faces her great British rival, Tessa Sanderson, the winner of the Olympic title and holder of the British record of 73.58m, in the match against France and Czechoslovakia in Gateshead.

Miss Sanderson is ready for her first confrontation since the Olympics she threw 71.8m in Madrid two weeks ago. She has spent the last week in Budapest, brushing up her technique with Miklos Nemeth, the 1976 Olympic men's champion. Nemeth is a former world record holder and has contributed largely to her Olympic victory.

Their performances so far this season place Britons second and third in the world rankings, led nevertheless by a big margin by Petra Felke, East Germany, who set the world record of 75.40m last month. Miss Sanderson and Miss Whitbread will get the opportunity to face Miss Felke in Birmingham on Sunday in an international match between East Germany and Japan. "It will be the best competition of the year, even better than the Olympics," Miss Whitbread said.

Miss Whitbread is going to Helsinki next Thursday to throw against Tina Liljak. In the Olympic stadium stadium there in 1983, Miss Liljak possessed 94m. Whitbread of the world title with the last throw of the competition. The British men are also having their best showing in the event. David Oulley, formerly with the Surrey club, Miss Whitbread, Thurock Harriers, in Essex, and now with Telford, was Britain's first Olympic medal winner in the event with a silver in Los Angeles last year. He is 91 and has been a javelin barrier this year, in throwing 90.70m. But Roald Bradstock, who was injured in the Olympic final and could finish seventh, has done better. He is 91 and has a world record. Bradstock has just finished his studies in fine art at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and is now deciding whether to stay in America or go back to the United States after this season in Europe.

Atlanta (AP) - The first Goodwill Games, an international event to be held midway between the Olympic Games, will be announced officially on July 10 with simultaneous ceremonies in New York and Moscow. The Atlanta Constitution reported yesterday that official announcement of the games, to be held in Moscow in 1986, had been scheduled for last week but was postponed until July 10.

RUGBY LEAGUE Swinton's second home By Keith Macklin Swinton, who were promoted from the second division last season, have agreed to play four home games this season at Swinton Burden Park, home of Bolton Wanderers Football Club. This follows a one-match experiment during freezing weather in January when a crowd of nearly 1,500 watched Swinton beat Sheffield Eagles there in a snowstorm. There is an option for two additional fixtures, and Swinton will have exclusive use of the Burden Park pitch, which has underused heating. Swinton's new manager, Alan Cooper, who was appointed last season, has been appointed coach at Leigh. The British Amateur Rugby League Association will play two matches against France next season.

POLO Wimbledon to close stand after fire report Wimbledon are to close their 52-year-old south stand, which seats 900 people, following the GLC's safety inspection of the Plough Land ground. The stand was destroyed by a fire on October 16. Alan Cooper, Wimbledon's assistant general manager, explained: "Repairs to the stand are so expensive it would be uneconomical for the club to carry them out at present."

Manchester City have closed their Platt Lane stand to their own supporters on police advice. Following a board meeting with the police City will use their 3,000-seater stand for away supporters only, a move which will cost the club a lot in lost revenue. Also, the entire ground will now be fenced in.

AC Milan will meet Sampdoria in the final of the Italian Cup, which means that Marco Hateley and Ray Winstone will be competing against Trevor Francis and Graham Taylor. Wales will play a friendly at home to Hungary on October 16. Aston Villa's former England midfielder player, Colin Cooper, looks set to move to Italian football at the weekend. Covaans is expected to join Bari, who have been promoted to the Italian first division in a move worth about £400,000.

RACING RESULTS Salisbury 3.45 (m) 4, 1. TOURNAIMENT LEADER (Kally Marks, 5-2) vs 2. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 3. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 4. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 5. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 6. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 7. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 8. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 9. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 10. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 11. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 12. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 13. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 14. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 15. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 16. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 17. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 18. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 19. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 20. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 21. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 22. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 23. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 24. Charles Stuart (M L Kelly, 5-2) vs 25. 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RACING: IMPRESSIVE CHAMPAGNE STAKES WINNER IS ONLY AN UNDERSTUDY AT KINGSLERE

Water Cay to make happy return Chalk Stream again shows strength of Balding's fillies

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Water Cay is napped to give Henry Cecil and Steve Cauthe another taste of success at Doncaster this afternoon by winning the Grimsby Stakes over six furlongs. It was over today's course and distance that this colt, by the American stallion J. O. Tobin, out of the 1972 1,000 Guineas winner, Waterloo, won his first and only start last month.

The form of that race has worked out well with the second, Try Harder, and the third, Hallgate, winning at York and Hamilton Park respectively. When Try Harder was successful at York earlier this month he beat Retymn, who made the form look even more solid when winning his next race by 10 lengths at Kempton Park on Wednesday evening.

Water Cay was due to contest the Evrol Stakes at Ascot last Saturday but was pulled out at the eleventh hour when the ground deteriorated following incessant rain. He would have been expected to account for Barrack Street, the winner of that Ascot race, and he is now fancied to cope with the recent 2yr winner, Vilash, who finished half a length in front of Barrack Street in a previous race at Beverley when both were beaten by Prince Piccadillo.

Calixtus, the decisive winner of the Woodcock Stakes at Epsom on Derby Day, has the benefit of Lester Piggott in the saddle but I doubt whether he can concede 6lb to Water Cay. Piggott has a much better chance of winning the next race.

The Stockil Stakes, riding the recent Newmarket winner, Perkin Warbeck, for Luca Cuman.

In the Margaret Maiden Stakes, Piggott will be on Khaki Nartak for Ben Hanbury. This unraced colt, by the 1977 Dewhurst Stakes winner, Try My Best, will not have to be anything out of the ordinary to make a successful debut. I find it significant that Hanbury has decided to rely upon Khaki Nartak instead of the more experienced Mister Macaw, who shaped like a future winner when he finished third at Beverley recently.

After riding at Doncaster, the edge over the Britannia Stakes third, Jaggy, in the Northern Life Maiden Stakes.

The recent Newbury winner, Gouvous Algonern, runs in the EBF Super Grand Stakes but here Cauthe may be thwarted by Edward Hide on Try Harder, whose form I have already praised when discussing Water Cay's chance at Doncaster.

At Lingfield Park, Gay Helene looks poised to give Dick Hern and Willie Carson another morale-boosting victory in the Gilbey Vintners Maiden Stakes. After taking on Bella Colera at Goodwood and Myra Davies at Sandown Park, she should find life a lot easier in this company.

Pat Eddery can sustain his challenge to Cauthe at the top of the jockeys' table by winning both two-year-old races on Parklands (2.30) and Bold Spv (4.0).

Barry Hills's improved stay-er, Singer's Tryst, should go well in the Hoffmeister Handicap but I doubt his ability to beat Shielgaid on terms 39lb worse than weight for age. Shielgaid ran well at Bath recently when he finished a close third to Nestor, the current favourite for tomorrow's Northumberland Plate.

In the Courage Handicap, Al Ameen will be trying to win his sixth race at Lingfield. However, he will not find the task of giving 11lb to the Wokingham third, Al Tru, easy.

lan Balding has shown a fine line in two-year-old fillies: this season with Storm Star, Northern Earily and Welsh Note all looking something out of the ordinary as they embark on their racecourse careers. This fact certainly did not go unnoticed as money poured on the royal trainer's representative, Chalk Stream, in yesterday's Champagne Stakes at Salisbury. However, those intrepid punters who bet on the post where he fell Eddery rode one of his cheekiest races on the 11-10 favourite.

In a disappointing field of only four for the course's richest race, which has been won by some outstanding horses in the past, Eddery was the best bet. He was others as first Klosterbrau and then Stratford East set the pace.

Just over a furlong out Richard Quinn shot the second favourite Lance past the tiring Stratford East to lead on the straight. Sperry took race in his pocket as Lance strode into a clear lead. However, Eddery had not moved on Chalk Stream and he did not do so until about 100 yards from the post where he beat his mount casually into the lead, looking across at Quinn on the runner-up in that almost disdainful way of his.

After such an eye-catching performance, one might have expected Balding to nominate one of the more important two-year-old events for Chalk Stream, but such is the stable strength in that depart-

ment that the daughter of Robelino will for the moment be kept as understudy to Storm Star, Northern Earily and Welsh Note all looking something out of the ordinary as they embark on their racecourse careers. This fact certainly did not go unnoticed as money poured on the royal trainer's representative, Chalk Stream, in yesterday's Champagne Stakes at Salisbury.

Bookmakers had to reach deep into their stretchers on more than one occasion during the afternoon as, apart from Chalk Stream and Balding's second winner, Pictograph, who was a very easy winner on Wednesday, Joe Mercer had the simple task of steering Sperry home once he had taken the lead on the 9-4 favourite - she opened in the betting at 4-1 - a furlong and a half out. At 16,000 guineas, Sperry looks another bargain and showed once again that you do not necessarily have to be a sheikh to strike oil in the racing game.

Kaycee last year's Ascot Stakes winner, has been heavily backed with Corals to win the Northumberland Plate tomorrow. Newcastle and is now 11-2 second favourite from 8-1. Other prices: 5-1 Nestor, 6-1 Accuracy, 7-1 Insular, 9-1 Morgan's Choice, 10-1 Trade Lic, 12-1 Bar.

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Water Cay to make happy return Chalk Stream again shows strength of Balding's fillies

By John Karter

lan Balding has shown a fine line in two-year-old fillies: this season with Storm Star, Northern Earily and Welsh Note all looking something out of the ordinary as they embark on their racecourse careers. This fact certainly did not go unnoticed as money poured on the royal trainer's representative, Chalk Stream, in yesterday's Champagne Stakes at Salisbury.

Bookmakers had to reach deep into their stretchers on more than one occasion during the afternoon as, apart from Chalk Stream and Balding's second winner, Pictograph, who was a very easy winner on Wednesday, Joe Mercer had the simple task of steering Sperry home once he had taken the lead on the 9-4 favourite - she opened in the betting at 4-1 - a furlong and a half out.

Kaycee last year's Ascot Stakes winner, has been heavily backed with Corals to win the Northumberland Plate tomorrow. Newcastle and is now 11-2 second favourite from 8-1. Other prices: 5-1 Nestor, 6-1 Accuracy, 7-1 Insular, 9-1 Morgan's Choice, 10-1 Trade Lic, 12-1 Bar.

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DONCASTER

Going: good to firm Draw advantage: doubtful 2.15 MARGARET MAIDEN STAKES (2y-o c & g; £1,053; 7f) (11 runners) 0 COUTURE COLOR (Couture Matting) R Woodhouse 5-0 ... K Hodgson 5

Doncaster selections 2.15 Khaki Nartak. 2.45 Tockala. 3.15 WATER CAY (nap). 3.45 Perkin Warbeck. 4.15 Thirsty. 4.45 Keres Sperry.

2.15 Qualifier Prince. 3.15 Water Cay. 3.45 Perkin Warbeck. 4.15 Al Nuwaidi. 4.45 El-Fayez. 2.45 LONDESBOURGH HANDICAP (£2,599; 1m 2f 50yd) (7)

3.15 GRIMTHORPE STAKES (2-y-o; £3,412; 6f) (6) 1 2141 GILBERT (G) (G) ... J Piggott 3

3.45 STOCKIL STAKES (2-y-o; £200; 1m) (10) 1 41 PERIN WARBECK (G) (Shah Mohammed) L Cuman 9-5 ... J Piggott 10

4.15 SCURRY HANDICAP (3-y-o-filles; £2,141; 7f) (18) 1 40-10 ABLOOM (J McGeough) M McCormack 9-7 ... J Carroll 7

4.45 GEORGE BOOB APRENTICE HANDICAP (£1,337; 1m 4f) (6) 2 310 EL-KAYEE (Prince Saad) R Slemmon 6-11/2 ... J Carter 8

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LINGFIELD PARK

Going: good Draw advantage: 5f-7f 140yd, high numbers best, low on heavy going 2.0 GILBEY WINTERS MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o fillies; £271; 1m 4f) (15 runners)

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2.30 KRONENBURG 1664 LAGER SELLING STAKES (2-y-o; £338; 6f) (10) 1 102 PARKS BAR (G) ... R Rose 4

3.0 HOFFMEISTER HANDICAP (£1,934; 2m) (12) 1 1940 SWEET PRINCE (G) ... H Candy 5-8-1

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NEWCASTLE

Going: good Draw advantage: none 6.45 E B F FARMING OUTLOOK MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (2-y-o; £2,077; 5f) (7 runners) 1 30 ALABAMA (G) ... J A Jervis 8-11

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

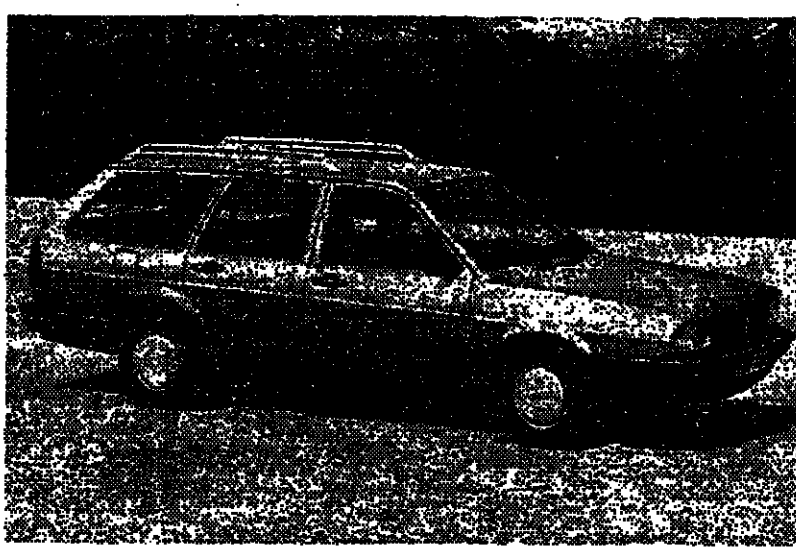
Passat has quality and performance

The British market has never offered a wider choice of estate cars. A quick count suggests something approaching two dozen, with several manufacturers marketing a wide selection of sizes and levels of equipment. It comes as something of a surprise, then, to find that Volkswagen: one of Europe's largest car makers, offer only one basic estate car, the Passat, but tries to make up the deficit with no less than six variants.

Starting with the Passat Estate C, costing £6,835, and powered by a 1.6 litre engine, they progress through the price range to £10,151 for the GL 5 automatic powered by the groups well known two-litre five cylinder with fuel injection. British buyers are apparently not very impressed by the cheaper versions because by far the biggest seller is the expensive GL 5, followed by the CL turbo diesel at £8,791.

This would suggest that the Passat Estate has an up-market image which goes along with a readiness to pay more for performance and better equipment. I tested the GL 5 in five-speed manual form recently and have no hesitation in saying that it is one of the most impressive and enjoyable estates I have driven.

On performance grounds alone it is outstanding, reaching 60 mph in under 11 seconds and topping 113 mph. What is more, it does all that without



Volkswagen Passat GL 5 estate: Outstanding performance

contrary the GL 5 is so responsive and controllable that it is easy to forget that you are at the wheel of a large estate car.

The load-carrying area is restricted by the intrusion of the wheel arches. However, if you put the smallest suitcases or odd packages at the rear between the arches it will still carry a surprising amount.

A big plus is the build quality. The doors closed with a very reassuring "clunk" on to generous rubber seals. The resulting tight fit isolates the occupants from wind and other outside noises and a large part of the reason for the Passat's above-average quietness.

It eats the miles in a most relaxing way. It is also surprisingly frugal for such a large car. I averaged around 30 mpg on all types of roads, running both empty and loaded.

The GL 5 comes complete with a neatly styled alloy roof rack. The easily removed crossbars can be stowed away in their own bag, reducing drag and noise. It also has other impressive equipment including central locking (now very high on my list of musts), electric windows, powersteering which does its job without fuss, headlamp washers, rear screen wipers and a variable height driver's seat.

Micra facelift

Nissan's swish-looking Micra Supermini went on sale in Britain a little over 18 months ago. At that time it was in short supply so Nissan UK did not campaign it very strenuously. Now with bigger shipments getting through from the factory it is taking off. So far this year 13,000 have been sold, making it the company's best selling model and accounting for a remarkable 2 per cent of all Nissan sales here in the first half of the year.

An updated Micra range is just arriving in showrooms with new moulded bumpers, revised light clusters and a different tailgate layout. Near the end of the final drive have been revised to improve performance. Fuel consumption has suffered marginally but as the Micra was exceptional in this respect it remains very economical.

New trim materials and upholstery, a revised instrument panel and locking glove box are standard throughout the range. The top GL model which sells for £4,898 has been replaced by an SXiL costing about £100 more. For that you get plush new seats with extra side supports, adjustable head restraints, deep pile carpets and a three-wave-hand stereo/cassette player.

Vital statistics

Model: VW Passat GL 5 Estate
Price: £9,800
Engine: 1.994 cc, five cylinder, fuel injected
Perf: 0-60 mph 10.8 sec, max speed 113 mph
Official Consumption: urban 25.9 mpg; 56 mph, 46.3 mpg; 75mph, 35.8 mpg
Length: 14.9 ft
Insurance: Group 6

any signs of stress, remaining quiet even when driven hard with a maximum load of four adults and mountains of luggage.

As you would expect with a powerful two-litre engine delivering up to 115 bhp through the front wheels, there is some torque steer but the resulting kick-back felt at the steering wheel is not disconcerting enough to make you want to back-off. On the

Mercedes Benz

VISIT OUR HUGE SHOWROOM WITH 50 MERCEDES-BENZ ON DISPLAY HERE IS A SELECTION FROM OUR STOCK. Includes a list of various Mercedes-Benz models like the 190, 230, 260, 300, 300 SEL, 300 T, 300 TDT, 300 TDTL, 300 TDTL 2.3, 300 TDTL 2.5, 300 TDTL 2.6, 300 TDTL 2.8, 300 TDTL 3.0, 300 TDTL 3.2, 300 TDTL 3.5, 300 TDTL 3.6, 300 TDTL 3.8, 300 TDTL 4.0, 300 TDTL 4.2, 300 TDTL 4.5, 300 TDTL 4.8, 300 TDTL 5.0, 300 TDTL 5.2, 300 TDTL 5.5, 300 TDTL 5.8, 300 TDTL 6.0, 300 TDTL 6.2, 300 TDTL 6.5, 300 TDTL 6.8, 300 TDTL 7.0, 300 TDTL 7.2, 300 TDTL 7.5, 300 TDTL 7.8, 300 TDTL 8.0, 300 TDTL 8.2, 300 TDTL 8.5, 300 TDTL 8.8, 300 TDTL 9.0, 300 TDTL 9.2, 300 TDTL 9.5, 300 TDTL 9.8, 300 TDTL 10.0, 300 TDTL 10.2, 300 TDTL 10.5, 300 TDTL 10.8, 300 TDTL 11.0, 300 TDTL 11.2, 300 TDTL 11.5, 300 TDTL 11.8, 300 TDTL 12.0, 300 TDTL 12.2, 300 TDTL 12.5, 300 TDTL 12.8, 300 TDTL 13.0, 300 TDTL 13.2, 300 TDTL 13.5, 300 TDTL 13.8, 300 TDTL 14.0, 300 TDTL 14.2, 300 TDTL 14.5, 300 TDTL 14.8, 300 TDTL 15.0, 300 TDTL 15.2, 300 TDTL 15.5, 300 TDTL 15.8, 300 TDTL 16.0, 300 TDTL 16.2, 300 TDTL 16.5, 300 TDTL 16.8, 300 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100.2, 300 TDTL 100.5, 300 TDTL 100.8, 300 TDTL 101.0, 300 TDTL 101.2, 300 TDTL 101.5, 300 TDTL 101.8, 300 TDTL 102.0, 300 TDTL 102.2, 300 TDTL 102.5, 300 TDTL 102.8, 300 TDTL 103.0, 300 TDTL 103.2, 300 TDTL 103.5, 300 TDTL 103.8, 300 TDTL 104.0, 300 TDTL 104.2, 300 TDTL 104.5, 300 TDTL 104.8, 300 TDTL 105.0, 300 TDTL 105.2, 300 TDTL 105.5, 300 TDTL 105.8, 300 TDTL 106.0, 300 TDTL 106.2, 300 TDTL 106.5, 300 TDTL 106.8, 300 TDTL 107.0, 300 TDTL 107.2, 300 TDTL 107.5, 300 TDTL 107.8, 300 TDTL 108.0, 300 TDTL 108.2, 300 TDTL 108.5, 300 TDTL 108.8, 300 TDTL 109.0, 300 TDTL 109.2, 300 TDTL 109.5, 300 TDTL 109.8, 300 TDTL 110.0, 300 TDTL 110.2, 300 TDTL 110.5, 300 TDTL 110.8, 300 TDTL 111.0, 300 TDTL 111.2, 300 TDTL 111.5, 300 TDTL 111.8, 300 TDTL 112.0, 300 TDTL 112.2, 300 TDTL 112.5, 300 TDTL 112.8, 300 TDTL 113.0, 300 TDTL 113.2, 300 TDTL 113.5, 300 TDTL 113.8, 300 TDTL 114.0, 300 TDTL 114.2, 300 TDTL 114.5, 300 TDTL 114.8, 300 TDTL 115.0, 300 TDTL 115.2, 300 TDTL 115.5, 300 TDTL 115.8, 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